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7 REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING  
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10 SEPTEMBER 25, 2001 - 1:00 P.M.

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18 REPORTED BY:

19 MONA L. WHIDDON

20 COURT REPORTER

21 Division of Administrative Hearings

22 DeSoto Building

23 1230 Apalachee Parkway

24 Tallahassee, Florida  
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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</p> <p>2 JOHNNIE B. BYRD, CHAIRMAN</p> <p>3 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER, CHAIRMAN</p> <p>4 RANDY BALL, CO-CHAIRMAN, House</p> <p>5 LARRY CROW, CO-CHAIRMAN, House</p> <p>6 BRUCE KYLE, CHAIRMAN, Senate</p> <p>7 SANDRA MURMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, Congressional</p> <p>8 SENATOR WALTER G. "SKIP" CAMPBELL</p> <p>9 SENATOR ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA</p> <p>10 SENATOR LESLEY MILLER, JR.</p> <p>11 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS</p> <p>12 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE DONNA CLARKE</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE DUDLEY J. GOODLETTE</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE CAROLE GREEN</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY M. HARRINGTON</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY D. KOTTKAMP</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE CONNIE MACK</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY G. MELVIN</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY PAUL</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS B. RICHARDSON</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE WATERS</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 and only purpose of which is to hear from the public on</p> <p>2 matters of redistricting. This is not a committee meeting,</p> <p>3 we will not be taking legislative action in this or</p> <p>4 subsequent hearings; instead, this is the public's forum</p> <p>5 where we have the opportunity to receive public input about</p> <p>6 their electoral districts, it is not time for legislative</p> <p>7 debate. All members of the House and Senate will have</p> <p>8 numerous opportunities in subsequent committee hearings and</p> <p>9 floor debates to address all of the wishes of the members</p> <p>10 and their concerns.</p> <p>11 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not</p> <p>12 diminish their voice by taking up time valuable time today</p> <p>13 in debate. Following my brief remarks, counsel will give a</p> <p>14 general overview of legal considerations in redistricting.</p> <p>15 Staff will then provide some specific information about the</p> <p>16 census results in this region of the state.</p> <p>17 The rest is reserved for you, the citizens, every 10</p> <p>18 years after the completion of the updated national census,</p> <p>19 the Constitution requires that the Florida Legislature</p> <p>20 redraw boundaries of district lines for the Florida House,</p> <p>21 the Florida Senate and the United States Congress. The</p> <p>22 Legislature will take up this task at the next legislative</p> <p>23 session which begins January 22nd, 2002, and ends March</p> <p>24 22nd, 2002. These new districts will be used in the</p> <p>25 elections of November 2002.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: The way that we would like to begin</p> <p>3 the meeting today is to have everyone rise and say the</p> <p>4 Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>5 (Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,</p> <p>7 my name is Johnny Byrd, I'm a state representative from</p> <p>8 Plant City, Florida, District 62, and I am the chairman of</p> <p>9 the House Redistricting Committee. It's my pleasure to</p> <p>10 welcome all of you today to this public hearing. Senators</p> <p>11 and Representatives are here to listen to the residents of</p> <p>12 this area and consider your input into this very important</p> <p>13 process. Since these are joint meetings, we have divided</p> <p>14 our responsibilities throughout the many public hearings to</p> <p>15 be held around the state. It is my pleasure at this time</p> <p>16 to introduce Senator Dan Webster who is chairman of the</p> <p>17 Senate reapportionment committee. Senator Webster will</p> <p>18 preside over today's hearing. You are recognized Senator</p> <p>19 Webster.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Chairman Byrd, and it's</p> <p>21 my pleasure also to welcome you to this public hearing,</p> <p>22 many of which we are holding throughout the summer and fall</p> <p>23 around the State of Florida. Let me explain the procedure</p> <p>24 by which we will be using at this public hearing and all of</p> <p>25 the public hearings. This is a public hearing and the sole</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 Redistricting is the essential element of our</p> <p>2 representative democracy. We take this on with humility</p> <p>3 and due regard for the importance of the difficulty of the</p> <p>4 job. We also are committed to the process that it will be</p> <p>5 fair and open and inclusive. These public hearings</p> <p>6 represent a crucial first step in this process. We</p> <p>7 appreciate that we are doing the work of the people. We</p> <p>8 want to hear from you and help you to participate in a</p> <p>9 meaningful way. We encourage you, for the public -- we</p> <p>10 encourage the public to participate. And in that</p> <p>11 encouragement, Senator President John McKay and House</p> <p>12 Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled 24 public hearings</p> <p>13 throughout the state. All members of the legislative</p> <p>14 redistricting committees as well as the local delegation</p> <p>15 members have been invited to these public hearings. This</p> <p>16 hearing is being shown live on Channel 30 and Cable 3.</p> <p>17 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool</p> <p>18 for public input and will broadcast select hearings on</p> <p>19 Florida Public Television stations.</p> <p>20 The web address for House and Senate legislative</p> <p>21 redistricting are available at the information table. A</p> <p>22 link also is available from the Legislature, Florida's</p> <p>23 Legislature's web site. The redistricting plan for the</p> <p>24 State House and State Senate will be passed in the form of</p> <p>25 a concurrent resolution, joint resolution which will not be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 subject to the Governor's approval or veto, but will be  2 subject to review by the Florida Supreme Court.  3 The plan determining Congressional Districts will not  4 be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Courts but will be  5 subject to the approval of the Governor through veto or his  6 signing of the legislation. I encourage everyone to  7 carefully review the 2000 Census; it is the essential  8 building block on which Florida's redistricting plans will  9 be built.  10 The address for the United States census web site is  11 available at the information table. We are here to the  12 listen and consider your voice. We encourage each member  13 of the public to testify and help us craft your legislative  14 districts. We also encourage written submissions in  15 addition to the testimony during the public hearings.  16 Everyone wishing to speak must fill out a speaker's  17 card, that's the only way that we will know who wishes to  18 speak and after the hearing who actually spoke. Speaker  19 cards are available at the sign-in table.  20 We want to hear from as many people as possible;  21 therefore, we must limit comments to four minutes. On  22 behalf of Senate President John McKay, House Speaker Tom  23 Feeney, and the members of the Florida Legislature, we look  24 forward to working with you on this historic and important  25 task.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 class.  2 Let me say a word about our university. We are the  3 newest university in the United States, still. We are in  4 our fifth year. Our student census is now up to 4350  5 students. We started with about 2500 students in 1997, we  6 are growing very rapidly. This year was 19 percent growth.  7 We expect by the year 2010 we will be about 15,000  8 students, so I am urging everybody, it is a real bargain to  9 go to school here right now. The faculty/student ratios  10 are wonderful, the buildings are brand new, the technology  11 is in place. We have built beautiful resident halls,  12 athletic programs are starting, there is a great tone of  13 optimism, frankly, in all of Southwest Florida.  14 And this redistricting hearing is all about some of  15 that. I can't emphasize enough the critical value of an  16 appropriate redistricting for Southwest Florida. I  17 mentioned to you that I originally came to Florida in the  18 early 1970s. I helped found the University of North  19 Florida in Jacksonville at that time. And then I moved on  20 to learn how to be a president elsewhere and came back and  21 I couldn't help but think that the University of South  22 Florida, the beautiful University of South Florida campus  23 is probably misnamed. We are here, this is South Florida,  24 this is Southwest Florida.  25 I think for a number of years Southwest Florida was  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 At this time, I would like to -- we normally have a  2 counsel presentation, which we will have just in a minute,  3 but the president of the university here, Florida Gulf  4 Coast University, Dr. Merwin, would like to give a word of  5 greeting.  6 DR. MERWIN: Welcome to Florida Gulf Coast University.  7 We appreciate you coming to our campus, indeed we are  8 honored that you would choose our site for this important,  9 very, very important public hearing today.  10 Let me begin by thanking our elected officials for  11 your participation in what I consider to be one of the most  12 important events, certainly during my time here. I arrived  13 originally in 1972 in Florida, and went away for a while,  14 and came back, so I consider Florida my home state. My  15 kids are all here and everything, so I am deeply vested in  16 this state.  17 I would like to take just a moment and introduce the  18 members of the Lee County leadership group who incidentally  19 are studying the issue of government today on our campus.  20 I had a chance to address them at noon and they were coming  21 over, so I would just ask them to stand so you can see who  22 they are. Leadership.  23 (Class standing. Applause.)  24 DR. MERWIN: There are probably a few more out in the  25 hallway, I think there are about 40 of them in this 16th  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 overlooked. I think largely through the leadership of our  2 Congressional delegation and through many of these  3 legislatures in this front row that we have not been  4 overlooked during this past decade, so it it's critical  5 that our legislatures, that our congressmen live here.  6 They need to know the sensitivities and the needs of the  7 citizens of this area, the health care needs, the  8 educational needs, the social and the economic needs. They  9 need to know who we are, we need to know who they are on a  10 regular basis.  11 Senator Webster, I turn the program back to you, I  12 welcome you. I hope that you get a chance to take a little  13 tour around the campus, you will like what you see. This  14 is a very different university and we are so proud of it.  15 And, by the way, we are extraordinarily patriotic and we  16 are very proud to be Americans.  17 (Applause.)  18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We also have the Chairman of the  19 Board of County Commissioners, Commission Cerny, and I  20 think he wanted to give a little bit of a welcome.  21 COMMISSIONER CERNY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and  22 all of the members of the delegation. I would like to  23 start by telling you, it is truly an honor and privilege  24 to come before you today and welcome you to Lee County and  25 we are proud that you are here and proud that you are  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 listening to what we have to say. I know you had a meeting  2 in Collier County last night and I think you are going to  3 hear again today that all of us in Southwest Florida are  4 speaking with one voice, partisan politics aside, we all  5 care very deeply about the future of Southwest Florida, and  6 we hope that you pay attention and listen to what all of  7 our people have to say today because we are all here for  8 one reason, we care about what's going to happen in the  9 future in Southwest Florida and we certainly don't want any  10 mistakes made that are going to take ten years to correct.  11 We are on a growth course. I can't think of any other  12 area in Florida that is growing at the rate of Southwest  13 Florida. And I think the good thing is that you are going  14 to see for yourself the people who are here, the residents  15 of Southwest Florida, their passion for this issue. I  16 would like to acknowledge my fellow county commissioners  17 who are here with me today to show support for your meeting  18 today, Commissioner Andy Coy, Commission Ray Judith, will  19 you please rise, Commissioner Bob James, and Commissioner  20 John Albian (phonetic). And we are all here together  21 because we do care.  22 I promise not to take too much time, but it is so  23 deeply vital to us that you listen to our local delegation.  24 We are blessed with having great people represent us in  25 Tallahassee and it's important that their voice be heard,  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 redistricting and reapportionment is the process of  2 dividing the residents of a jurisdiction, in this case, the  3 entire State of Florida into different electoral seats or  4 districts. Redistricting is a constitutional requirement.  5 Both the Florida Constitution and the United States  6 Constitution require redistricting commencing every ten  7 years after the census. Because of Florida's population  8 increase over the last ten years, Florida will have two  9 additional members in the United States Congress, a total  10 of 25.  11 The State Legislature, therefore, will need to create  12 25 separate, contiguous districts that will cover the  13 entire state, one for each member of Congress. The  14 Legislature will also need to divide the state into 40  15 State Senate Districts and 120 State House of  16 Representative districts, although the Legislature may, if  17 they choose, reduce the number of State Senate and House  18 districts as low as 30 and 80, respectively. The Florida  19 Constitution also requires that the State House and Senate  20 Districts be consecutively numbered and of either  21 contiguous, overlapping or identical territory.  22 In Florida we have already discussed a task of  23 redistricting being entrusted with the State Legislature.  24 Commencing with this public hearing process the State  25 Legislature will begin considering the opinions of  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 and we are here in support of them to show you that we  2 truly, truly care, and we are here in support of all of  3 you. And again, on behalf of the residents of Southwest  4 Florida and Lee County especially and my board, I want to  5 thank you for being here and the opportunity to address  6 you. Thank you very much.  7 (Applause.)  8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: At this time, I would like to  9 recognize Ed Pozzuoli who is a partner in the firm of  10 Scott, Trip and they are representing the Senate in  11 redistricting. And he will give us a legal overview of the  12 redistricting process.  13 MR. POZZUOLI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the  14 Senator indicated, my name is Ed Pozzuoli, I'm with the law  15 firm Trip, Scott, along with my partner, Senator Jim Scott,  16 represent the Florida Senate in redistricting and  17 reapportionment matters, and together with our colleagues  18 who represent the House, I am about to give you a joint  19 presentation about the general overview about the  20 reapportionment process. The overview, this presentation  21 is by no means intended to be comprehensive or a complete  22 review of all issues related to the topic but is intended  23 to give each of you an introduction to the basic principles  24 and constraints that will guide the decision which will  25 lead us in the redistricting process. The task of the  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 Florida's citizens. Legislative committees will convene as  2 early as this fall. And beginning in January, the full  3 Legislature will meet and begin the process of developing  4 and considering different redistricting plans. The regular  5 sessions, of course, hopefully will end in March 2002.  6 In the regular legislative session, should the  7 legislative session end without a redistricting plan, the  8 Governor is required by the Florida Constitution to  9 reconvene the Legislature in a special session, which shall  10 not exceed 30 consecutive days. If this special session  11 ends without the adoption of a redistricting plan for the  12 State Legislature, the Attorney General must then petition  13 the Florida Supreme Court to commence deliberations on the  14 establishment of a redistricting plan.  15 Within 60 days of this petition, the Florida Supreme  16 Court must file an order stating, setting forth such a  17 plan. If, during the regular session or special session,  18 reapportionment plans are adopted for the Legislature -- by  19 the Legislature for Congress, then the Governor has the  20 need to approve or veto the adopted plan on the  21 congressional side.  22 If the Legislature adopts redistricting plans for the  23 State House and State Senate Districts, then 15 days after  24 passage, the Florida Attorney General is required to  25 petition the Florida Supreme Court for determination of its  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 validity. If the Florida Supreme Court declares invalid  2 the Legislature plan, within 5 days of such determination,  3 the Governor must reconvene the Legislature in an  4 extraordinary session of no more than 15 days at which  5 session the Legislature adopts a joint resolution  6 conforming to the judgment of the Florida Supreme Court.  7 Now, in adopting a redistricting plan the Legislature  8 will be guided by several factors, including the principle  9 of one person, one vote, and the requirements of the  10 Florida Constitution, the United States Constitution, and  11 pertinent federal statutes.  12 With respect to one person, one vote, this is a  13 principle that's been developed over a series of landmark  14 United States Supreme Court cases in the 1960s. Generally  15 this principle stands for the proposition that each  16 person's vote should count as much as anyone else's vote.  17 These cases embodied a reaction to the practice in several  18 states of maintaining districts for state legislative  19 offices that were substantially different in population.  20 For example, an urban district containing 250,000 people  21 electing one representative to the State House of  22 Representatives and a rural district in the same state  23 containing 75,000 people also electing one representative  24 to the State House.  25 The Supreme Court concluded that these types of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 deliberation regarding redistricting. Section 2 of the  2 Voter's Rights Act prohibits any practice or procedure  3 including certain redistricting practices that impairs the  4 ability of a minority community to elect a candidate of  5 choice on equal basis with nonminority voters.  6 Florida is also one of the states containing certain  7 jurisdictions that are subject to review under Section 5 of  8 the Voter's Rights Act. Section 5 of the Voter's Rights  9 Act requires that a covered jurisdiction submit to  10 implementation any proposed change to their practices or  11 procedures affecting voting, including changes to election  12 districts resulting from the redistricting process for  13 approval by either the Attorney General of the United  14 States or the Federal District Court in the District of  15 Columbia. This process is known as preclearance.  16 In Florida, the covered jurisdictions include Collier,  17 Hendry, Hardy, Hillsborough and Monroe Counties. The vast  18 majority of the preclearance requests were made to the  19 Attorney General's office. Preclearance is obtained if the  20 Attorney General affirmatively indicates that his office or  21 her office has no objection to change or if, at the  22 expiration of 60 days, there's no objection to the  23 submitted change by that office, by the Attorney General's  24 Office.  25 Either through a court proceeding or administrative</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 differences in district population resulted in each vote in  2 the district with the smaller population carrying more  3 weight than the larger population. The one person, one  4 vote cases forbid these discrepancies in the creation of  5 districts; however, neither the Constitution or the Supreme  6 Court requires exact or precise mathematical equality among  7 Congressional Districts or among State Legislative  8 Districts.  9 For Congressional Districts the courts have instituted  10 the strictest standard. As a rule of thumb, the population  11 among of different districts of one state will be  12 substantially less than 1 percent. In other words, if you  13 take the state's total population and divide it by the  14 number of Congressional districts, in this case 25, the  15 result will give you an ideal size for each Congressional  16 District in that state. And typically the Congressional  17 District in any given state will be well within the 1  18 percent of the ideal number.  19 For State Legislative Districts, the courts have  20 permitted a greater deviation among districts. The courts  21 will accept differences between districts of up to  22 10 percent in certain circumstances. The Voter's Rights  23 Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection Clause of the United  24 States Constitution have become over the course of the last  25 30 years important elements of any Legislature's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 process through the Attorney General's office, the covered  2 jurisdiction bears the burden of demonstrating that the  3 proposed voting change does not have the purpose and will  4 not have an effect of denying or abridging the right top  5 vote based on account of race, or color, or membership in a  6 language minority group.  7 The legal rules regarding the redistricting and  8 reapportionment process are somewhat complicated, and  9 unfortunately this is a short presentation which scratches  10 the surface of a rather delicate legal issue, some of which  11 have not even been fully decided by the courts.  12 Mr. Chairman, I as well as my colleagues who represent  13 the House, stand ready to assist you throughout this  14 hearing and the process. Thank you.  15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. At this time, I would  16 like to recognize John Guthrie, who is with the Senate  17 redistricting committee and the staff and he will give a  18 brief presentation on the 2000 Census and its effect of  19 this particular area in particular. Mr. Guthrie.  20 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Chairman Webster, Chairman  21 Byrd, members of the House and Senate, what I want to do in  22 the next few minutes is to explain for you and for the  23 audience here some of the factual underpinnings of the 2000  24 Census as they pertain to redistricting in Florida.  25 The first fact that we need to keep in mind in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 considering population growth in this state during the past  2 decade is that Florida is a very rapidly growing state.  3 The population of Florida grew by 3 million people to  4 almost 16 million by April 1st of 2000.  5 As a result, Florida's delegation in the United States  6 Congress is going to increase by two. The number of  7 members of the House of Representatives will go from 23 to  8 25. The other key fact that we need to look at or consider  9 when looking at Florida's population growth is that the  10 growth has not been uniform across the state. Some areas  11 have grown quite quickly, such as Flagler County, which  12 grew at a rate of 73.6 percent, or Sumter County, which  13 grew at a rate of 69 percent.  14 Other quick-growing counties, a lot of rapid growth in  15 Southwest Florida. Collier County grew at a rate of  16 65.3 percent during the past decade. Wakulla County in the  17 Panhandle at the rate of 61 percent, and Osceola County at  18 the rate of 60 percent.  19 At the other end of the spectrum, some counties have  20 grown very slowly. For instance, Monroe County grew at a  21 rate of 2 percent over the past ten years. Pinellas and  22 Putnam Counties grew at rate of 8.2 percent and Gadsden  23 County, again in the Panhandle, grew at rate of  24 9.7 percent. All other counties in Florida grew at a rate  25 of 10 percent or greater.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 substantially underpopulated will need to gain territory.  2 Back in 1990 when the last census was taken and the  3 last redistricting was accomplished, the population per  4 Congressional District was 562,519 people. Based on the  5 2000 Census this will increase by 14 percent. The new  6 size, average size of Congressional Districts will be just  7 under 640,000 people. By the same token, the average  8 population per Senate District in 1990 was 323,000 people,  9 the average per House District was 108,000 people. And  10 based on the 2000 Census, these will increase respectively  11 to 400,000 people per Senate District and 143,000 people  12 for a House District.  13 The graphic that's on the screen now shows you the  14 relative increase in district size from 1990, indicated in  15 the green or teal color, to 2000, indicated in the blue  16 color, for Congressional, Senate and House Districts. We  17 also can look at the change of density in this area during  18 the past ten years. And what we see is that the downtown  19 area in Fort Myers has actually lost population, but the  20 areas south, and particularly the Cape Coral area and areas  21 south through Lee County and Collier County have gained a  22 whole lot of population. We also have a graphis that  23 correct that shows the population growth relative to the  24 state average, areas that are in darker shades of blue here  25 were growing proportionately much more quickly than the  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 Now, looking at the facts for this local area, in Lee  2 County, the population increased by 31.6 percent to a total  3 of 440,882 people. That ranks Lee County 7th among  4 Florida's 67 counties. Of course, the rate of growth in  5 Lee County is more rapid than the rate of growth in the  6 state which means that Lee County is going to be entitled  7 to more representation after redistricting.  8 By the same token, Charlotte County, the population  9 increased by 27.6 percent, again faster than the state  10 average, to a total of 142,000 people. Charlotte County  11 now ranks 26th among Florida's 67 counties.  12 And Collier County to the south as we mentioned  13 earlier is one of the most rapidly growing counties in the  14 state, growing at a ten-year rate of 65.3 percent to over  15 250,000 people. Collier County now ranks 18th among  16 Florida's 67 counties.  17 As we were discussing earlier, Article One of the  18 United States Constitution provides for a decennial census  19 for the expressed purpose of ensuring equal representation  20 of all citizens. Based on the 2000 Census, we will  21 redistrict not only congressional lines but also Senate and  22 House district lines in the State of Florida. Districts  23 that now have substantially too many people based on the  24 2000 Census or the change in population in the 10 years  25 will need to become smaller, and the districts that are  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 state average, areas in red were growing slower than the  2 state average. And you can see what picture that shows.  3 The handouts that were provided to members and the  4 public at this hearing indicate four current Congressional,  5 Senate, and House Districts, the amounts that those  6 districts are overpopulated or underpopulated based on the  7 new district average, again, based on the 2000 Census. For  8 instance, Congressional District 14 in this area is now  9 overpopulated by 151,157 people, which means that in order  10 to equalize the population you would have to have less  11 territory in order to reduce the population to the target  12 population of about 640,000.  13 We see the same pattern with Senate Districts in  14 Florida, Senate District 25, for instance, is overpopulated  15 by 96,419 people, and the same pattern again with House  16 Districts in Southwest Florida. All of the information  17 that we have been discussing today and a good deal more is  18 available from the Legislature's web site, Online Sunshine.  19 The address for that is <a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us">www.leg.state.fl.us</a>. Also from the  20 legislative web site it's possible for citizens to purchase  21 the Legislature's redistricting program which includes the  22 same data and the same application that members will be  23 used using to analyze and to build Congressional Districts.  24 And just as a quick sample as to how that program can  25 be used, we have a plan and if we say that we want to add  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties to a new Congressional  2 District, we click on those and instantly the population is  3 added, in this case, to District 1. You see that the total  4 population that we just added, or the total population of  5 these three counties is 833,892 people, which means that we  6 are almost 200,000 over the required population for a  7 Congressional District. This is not to suggest that that  8 will be the way to do the redistricting, but that's how  9 easy it is to add or remove territory from a district. So  10 I would encourage members and the public to take a look at  11 the web site and avail themselves of all of these resources  12 that are available for redistricting.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie. Ladies and  14 gentlemen, as I stated earlier, we will be using speaker  15 cards to identify those that speak. And we will be calling  16 on you in number in ascending order listed at the bottom  17 right-hand corner of that card. If there's anyone who  18 wishes to speak that has not filled out a card, if you will  19 sign in at the information table, the staff can assist you  20 in doing that. Please remember that in order to ensure  21 that every person has an opportunity to speak we are  22 limiting you to four minutes and we will give you a little  23 bit of warning if you are close to the time. And, of  24 course, we will take any written submissions that you have  25 also, and if you have a handout, please make sure that the  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 to bring together the superintendents of the public school  2 districts and the presidents of the regionally accredited  3 public and independent counties and universities of  4 Southwest Florida, encompassing Charlotte, Collier, Glades,  5 Hendry and Lee Counties, and whereas the Alliance works in  6 partnership to serve the educational needs of students and  7 their families in the five-county area, and whereas the  8 Alliance recognizes the critical role of the Legislature on  9 both the State and national levels in education finance and  10 policy, and whereas the Alliance firmly believes that the  11 elected representatives should be knowledgeable of the area  12 as it's unique in its goals, be accessible to the citizens,  13 and consistently visible and available. And whereas it is  14 right and necessary that the representation in Southwest  15 Florida be from the same region, and now be it therefore  16 resolved, that the Alliance of Education Leaders supports  17 redistricting plans that assures its representatives that  18 the Florida Legislature and the United States Congress  19 reside in Southwest Florida and ensure cohesive districts  20 whose geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of  21 Southwest Florida," signed Lynn C. Maryland and Dr. Tom  22 Heeley (phonetic), the executive director.</p> <p>23 And, Mr. Chairman, could I give this resolution to  24 somebody?</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Yes, if you will lay it on the  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 staff has those and they will distribute them for you.  2 So, we'll start off with number one who has already  3 spoken once and I think he has a resolution to read.  4 Dr. Merwin, you are recognized.</p> <p>5 DR. MERWIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My  6 name is Bill Merwin. For the record, I am the president of  7 Florida Gulf Coast University. I am here today to  8 represent the Alliance of Education Leaders. We are a  9 group of ten, five superintendents of schools from Collier,  10 Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades County, and then all of  11 the college and university presidents, including the  12 community colleges as well as the private presidents in all  13 of Southwest Florida.</p> <p>14 We organized two years ago this month for the purpose  15 of doing things where work force is concerned, raising  16 student achievement. The first time really that  17 superintendents of schools and college presidents got  18 together and talked about a pre-K through 12th -- pre-K  19 through the graduate school program. And that happens to  20 be a model right now that's adopted state-wide. They have  21 come up with a resolution, done a number of things where  22 work force is concerned. They are currently working on  23 teacher shortage issues. Here is their resolution. And  24 I'm the chairman of that group.</p> <p>25 "Whereas the Alliance of Education Leaders was formed  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 front table we will get it copied and make sure that  2 everyone has a copy.</p> <p>3 DR. MERWIN: Thank you.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Number two, you are  5 recognized.</p> <p>6 MR. SLOT: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, ladies and  7 gentlemen of the committee, my name is Jake Slot and I  8 speak for more than 2600 realtors of the Realtors  9 Association of Greater Fort Myers and the beach, the Bonita  10 Springs Board and the Sanibel Captiva Board. I could have  11 them all stand up. A lot of them are here to represent us.  12 Could you stand up, please.</p> <p>13 (Group stands.)</p> <p>14 MR. SLOT: There is my back-up crew, by the way. So,  15 and I am honored to represent them. I would like to read  16 you our position on the issue of redistricting. "The board  17 of directors and the membership of the aforementioned  18 realtors association strongly supports redistricting plans  19 that assure its representatives in the Florida Legislature  20 and the U.S. Congress reside in and represent the interest  21 of Southwest Florida. The membership of these realtor  22 associations supports cohesive districts who geographic  23 boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest Florida.</p> <p>24 The membership specifically rejects any redistricting  25 in Southwest Florida using bi-coastal or otherwise split  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 districts, which could ultimately result in less 2 representations for the citizens of this rapidly growing 3 area." 4 At this time I would also like to submit to you for 5 public record over 500 letters from the membership of these 6 organizations that are in support of this position. We 7 certainly thank you for this opportunity, and personally I 8 would like to thank all of you on this task force. I know 9 you all have spent the whole summer doing this and I know 10 you have other lives as well, and I think the citizens of 11 Florida are very fortunate that we have committed people in 12 Tallahassee representing us. And we are thank you very 13 much for this opportunity. Thank you. 14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number three. 15 MS. BERTOLINI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and 16 members, I'm Delores Fernandez Bertolini, resident of the 17 City of Cape Coral, Florida. I serve as the vice-chairman 18 of the Minority Affairs Committee for the City of Cape 19 Coral and also a member of the order, Sons of Italy in 20 America, Charles J. Bonapart (phonetic), Lodge 2504, the 21 Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and CLOUT, 22 an acronym for Citizens League of Unified Taxpayers. 23 Our current district has demonstrated that it is 24 geographically compact and economically and politically 25 cohesive. With no history of thwarting minority groups' DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 five. 2 MS. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, members of the commission, 3 my name is Laura Miller, I'm president of the League of 4 Women Voters of Lee County. It's been heartening lately to 5 see the unanimity with which our legislators in Washington 6 have been behaving. For the first time in my memory 7 everybody appears to be going in the same direction. It is 8 too bad it took a terrible tragedy to being that about. 9 Unfortunately I don't always see that same spirit of 10 cooperation in Tallahassee, even though our state 11 legislators face a decision, the result of which will 12 affect Florida citizens for the next ten. 13 On three different occasions in recent months I have 14 heard legislators in our majority party say they have been 15 making reapportionment decisions all of these years, now 16 it's our turn. That's always followed in my own mind by a 17 little voice in the back of my head that says, "But you 18 don't have to do what everybody else does." It is my 19 mother. 20 It sounds like politics as usual, doesn't it? Isn't 21 it time for all of our decision-makers to take the high 22 road and think about the welfare of all Floridians? We 23 find it unfortunate if indeed the process has been 24 politicized in the past. When the Legislature has free 25 reign, sometimes districts are gerrymandered and other DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 interests. This is why we moved to Southwest Florida 15 2 years ago. If this district is split, minority groups from 3 Southwest Florida would be disenfranchised and would be 4 represented by those who are totally unfamiliar with their 5 needs and interests. The needs of the Southwest Florida 6 minority communities would not get the attention or focus 7 they deserve. If they needed to compete for grants, funds, 8 and recognition against East Coast Florida or other 9 geographical regions within the state. 10 The last census has demonstrated the growth in Cape 11 Coral and along with it the expanded growth of the minority 12 community along with the entire district. The communities 13 are demonstrating how easily and cohesively it can be done. 14 But this did not happen on its own, it happened because we 15 have representatives who live here and understand our needs 16 and are constantly working to meet these needs. A new, 17 unbalanced district system will not improve on the 18 representative district now in place and will not further 19 the interest of the residents and minorities in Southwest 20 Florida. 21 An unbalanced district system will destroy the 22 cohesive foundation that is in place today because we have 23 representatives who live here, know our needs and attend to 24 them. Thank you, and please do not disenfranchise us. 25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number four. Number DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 unfair acts happen. 2 The reapportionment process should not be a tool for 3 the majority party or for any other group to strengthen its 4 position and weaken the opposition. The League of Women 5 Voters of Florida urge that the following criteria be the 6 basis for redistricting decisions. First, full disclosure 7 of the redistricting process should be available to the 8 public. Second, all districts should be as nearly equal in 9 population as possible. 10 Third, districts should be compact and composed of 11 contiguous territory. Fourth, divisions in counties should 12 not occur any more than is absolutely necessary. Fifth, 13 districts should not dilute the voting strength of any 14 group based on race, religion, or national origin. And 15 districts should not be drawn to favor or disfavor any 16 incumbent political party or other person. 17 Here on the west coast of Florida we are also 18 concerned that lines be drawn north and south rather than 19 east and west. We have far more needs and concerns and 20 comments with the counties to the north and south of us 21 than we do with those on the east coast of Florida. I need 22 not dwell on this point, I think you are going to hear it 23 from a lot of speakers today. 24 Instead, would like to spend my remaining time telling 25 you of a project that the League of Women Voters support, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 along with Common Cause Florida, the Florida Association of  2 Supervisors of Elections, the American Association of  3 University Women, and a number of other organizations. We  4 have formed people over politics, which has, as its goal,  5 placing two proposed amendments on the ballot in 2002.  6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.  7 MS. MILLER: Those, if ultimately passed, would change  8 the process of reapportionment in the next census. One of  9 the amendments would create a 17-member, nonpartisan  10 commission which would make decisions about legislative  11 districts. And the other would set up standards which  12 contain those six that I read earlier. If this appeals to  13 you, we are incidentally respecting --  14 (Bell rings).  15 MS. MILLER: Do I get to finish?  16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No, we said four minutes, so if you  17 can wrap it up here in one sentence.  18 MS. MILLER: I just wanted to say that we are  19 respecting the university's rules that we not solicit here,  20 but if anybody wants to find out about those, just call me  21 or call Ann Thornton. Thank you.  22 (Applause.)  23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number six.  24 MR. WARFIELD: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of  25 the committee, I'm John Warfield, I represent the City of  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 that during the redistricting process Bonita Springs be  2 aligned with its contiguous west coast counties and  3 communities of interest, and not be included in  4 Congressional Districts extending from Florida's southeast  5 counties, Broward, Miami-Dade, or Monroe." Thank you.  6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number eight.  7 MR. REITMANN: Good afternoon. My name is Michael  8 Reitmann, I am the executive vice-president of the Lee  9 Building Industry Association representing 850 building and  10 related industries employing over 25,000 residents in Lee  11 County. And many of those residents were up at 5:30, and  12 if you who are not familiar with Southwest Florida, were on  13 I-75, they are the ones that create gridlock for about two  14 hours driving north or south.  15 They could not be here, they are still working. They  16 are actually the underpinnings of the strong economy that  17 we are enjoying, 25,000 individuals that I represent. The  18 lead EBIA is the oldest professional construction trade  19 association in Southwest Florida. Collier and Lee counties  20 for the past five years have been first and second in the  21 State of Florida in the number of housing permits obtained  22 per 1,000 individual residents.  23 In the United States Collier is number one and Lee  24 County is number three in the percentage of building  25 permits issued, so you have a feel of the percentage of  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 Bonita Springs. We are located -- well, the main street of  2 Bonita Springs is Bonita Beach Road and one side of it, the  3 south side, is Collier County, and the north side is Lee  4 County, so that gives you an idea of where we are. So,  5 when you talk about splits, we get very, very concerned.  6 There is a major concern that this election district, the  7 14th, will be carved up for the benefit of east coast  8 politicians. The citizens of Bonita Springs desire that  9 their representative live in Southwest Florida. We believe  10 that it is also important that the City of Bonita Springs  11 be kept together with one representative in Tallahassee and  12 not be split into two districts. We want to ensure that  13 after the redistricting process we are aligned with our  14 contiguous west coast counties. And we thank you for the  15 opportunity to present our views, and there is a resolution  16 coming on here. Thank you very much.  17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number seven.  18 MR. EDSALL: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and  19 committee members, I'm Wayne Edsall and a member of the  20 Bonita Springs City Council. I would like to read you a  21 position statement that was unanimously approved by our  22 city council. "Therefore, be it proclaimed by the city  23 council of the City of Bonita Springs, Florida, that on  24 behalf of the citizens of Bonita Springs we support  25 citizens for fair redistricting in their efforts to ensure  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 growth that you could see reflected earlier.  2 The Southwest Florida business community and their  3 families have worked very hard and diligently to create a  4 strong economic base for our community. For years we have  5 sent our money to Washington and Tallahassee and received  6 very little in return for our efforts. We are perceived as  7 the backwater of Florida by our neighbors in Dade and  8 Broward counties, we are donors of our hard-earned money  9 and receive practically nothing from the state and federal  10 government for education, transportation. Remember the  11 gridlock? Those of you who are from other parts of the  12 state, come down here some morning at 5:30 in the morning  13 and see what you have on I-75, as well as social services  14 that are dire straits down here. Enough is enough.  15 This past year we have gained political clout in  16 Southwest Florida with our representatives who have very  17 aptly represented us in transportation and water resource  18 areas. We have learned that strength lies in forming  19 coalitions and focusing on common goals and quality of life  20 issues in Southwest Florida. We are not going to allow  21 Southwest Florida to be divided and conquered by an east  22 coast political group which has absolutely no interest in  23 Southwest Florida except political expediency and selfish  24 political power grabbing.  25 We must take control of our own destiny and demand our  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1     rightful and earned place in national and state  2     representation. We are not requesting representation, we  3     are demanding it based on sound numbers and demonstrated  4     achievement. The United States and Florida governments are  5     based on a federated system of representation. Please  6     govern yourself accordingly. And I truly appreciate your  7     attention, thank you very much.</p> <p>8     CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number nine.</p> <p>9     MR. VALEDTI: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of  10    the committee, thank you very much, my name is Bill  11    Valedti, I am the president of Florida Gulf Bank, but I  12    come to you today as the chairman of the Chamber of the  13    Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce. I find myself in a  14    unique situation today, our Chamber was founded  15    specifically with the idea that our Chamber would not  16    engage in any type of political activity. However, our  17    nearly 1,000 members and 42-member board felt strongly  18    enough about this to pass what I think is probably the most  19    strongly worded resolution that I have seen this board  20    unanimously pass. I won't bore you with reading that  21    resolution, I have provided a copy; however, I would like  22    to summarize by saying, we believe that a reapportionment  23    plan that fractionalizes Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry  24    and Glades County is a disservice to our citizens and fails  25    to provide our community with an effective voice in our  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1     Also past commandant of the Marine Corps League of  2     Charlotte County. We have forums in our Charlotte County.  3     There's really strength in unity, as you all know. I take  4     a lot of pride that I was a Marine and I'm proud of  5     Charlotte County, please don't continue to divide Charlotte  6     County. I know that you are going to do the things right,  7     but as a former teacher, please do the right thing, please  8     bring Charlotte County to become to having one Senator and  9     one House of Representative. Thank you very much for your  10    time.</p> <p>11    CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 11.</p> <p>12    MR. HARRITY: Good afternoon. Thank you very much for  13    coming here and listening to our requests. My name is  14    Marty Harrity and I am a resident of Sanibel, Florida, and  15    a member of the city council. Last Tuesday we had an  16    opportunity to talk about redistricting and we have issued  17    a resolution that I would like to read for the record.  18    Under separate cover you will be receiving copies of this.  19    It reads as follows, "Resolution 01-70, A resolution  20    supporting the position that the City of Sanibel remain in  21    a Congressional District solely within the west coast  22    counties of the State of Florida, requesting that the  23    representation of the citizens of Southwest Florida be  24    preserved and enhanced and not diminished by having any  25    portion of Lee County included in an east coast  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1     governance.</p> <p>2     The citizens of Southwest Florida are entitled to be  3     included within state and federal voting districts which  4     are geographically compact and economically and politically  5     cohesive. And a redistricting plan that would include all  6     or any portion of the Southwest Florida within the state or  7     federal districts dominated by counties located on the east  8     coast of Florida would only be considered in order to serve  9     the personal and political interest of certain individuals  10    residing on Florida east coast.</p> <p>11    The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce  12    whole-heartedly supports a plan of congressional and state  13    redistricting which does not link or otherwise include any  14    portion of Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, or Glades  15    counties within a voting district dominated by voters  16    residing outside of Southwest Florida. Ladies and  17    gentlemen, thank you.</p> <p>18    CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number ten.</p> <p>19    MR. PRIER: My name is Clay Prier from Charlotte  20    County. We presently have two Senators, State Senators and  21    two Representatives in Charlotte County. Neighborhood  22    versus commonalities. I am presently the president of  23    Charlotte County Veterans Council, which includes 32  24    military organizations like the DAV, the VFW and the  25    American Legion of the Charlotte County Veterans Council.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1     Congressional District, directing a copy of this resolution  2     to be sent to the appropriate parties," et cetera, et  3     cetera, et cetera. Thank you for your time and thank you  4     for being here.</p> <p>5     CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 12.</p> <p>6     MR. SHARVELL: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, ladies and  7     gentlemen. I don't represent any group, I am an individual  8     citizen, I am a small businessman and I live in Charlotte  9     County. I have lived in Charlotte County since 1988 and  10    there's an anomalous situation where we have -- the Peace  11    River divides us. Let me explain it. Geographically we  12    have -- I'm getting tongue-tied here. The 24th Senatorial  13    District should include Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. At  14    the moment it does not, Punta Gorda belongs to another  15    senatorial district, and yet, Punta Gorda and Port  16    Charlotte have these traditionally -- our communities are  17    close, we share a commonality of economics, social exchange  18    and so forth and we are a long way north from Fort Myers,  19    so it would make sense to include Port Charlotte and Punta  20    Gorda in the 24th Senatorial District. Thank you very  21    much.</p> <p>22    CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 13.</p> <p>23    MR. WELLS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate and  24    House, unlike most of the preceding speakers, I appear  25    merely as a citizen. I happen to be a retired attorney and  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 also a former businessman living in Charlotte County, and I  2 have been active for the last 15 years in public affairs in  3 my county, and I continue to be. One of the chief concerns  4 that I have is the fact that we have two voices, not one,  5 but two, unfortunately sometimes, two in the State Senate.  6 My idea of similarity of ideas with the Punta Gorda folks  7 is that we should have one single voice speaking for us in  8 Tallahassee in the Senate.</p> <p>9 We have, for example, we have both in Punta Gorda and  10 Port Charlotte and the west of Charlotte County, we have  11 similar problems, we have similar objectives, we have  12 similar environmental concerns, we have similar traffic  13 problems, similar community interests, similar concerns  14 about our schools and about our public safety. We have a  15 great deal in common and there's no logical reason why we  16 should continue to divide beautiful Charlotte County into  17 two separate voices in the Senate of our state.</p> <p>18 And so I urge you, please, give serious consideration  19 to this. We have been separated for a long time. We could  20 not afford to continue with any homogeneity of purpose  21 within our county unless we become unified. So, please, I  22 beg of you, give that serious consideration. I speak for  23 no organization, just a plain ordinary citizen. And thank  24 you very much.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 14.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 districts must occasionally be split between counties and  2 we recognize that the small county of Charlotte lies  3 between two large counties. We would hope that any  4 splitting of districts would at least give Charlotte County  5 a significant chunk of the split district. This would  6 encourage the elected officials to visit us frequently,  7 also it would give us more voice when we would approach  8 them with our concerns. Your job is difficult, I don't  9 envy you, but I know that you will do your best to be fair  10 and impartial. Thank you.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 15.</p> <p>12 MS. HARTMAN: Let me put on my over-40 eyes here.  13 Good afternoon, my name is Carol Orr Hartman, I'm here as a  14 private citizen. I was born in Dade County, Florida, my  15 grandfather was a builder of many of Miami's landmark  16 buildings. My uncle John Bior (phonetic) was a State  17 legislator for the east coast of Florida in the '50s, he  18 was the Mayor of Dade County in the '70s. My father was a  19 Dade County Circuit Court Judge, I worked for the Dade  20 County State Attorney's Office and the Dade County Public  21 Defender's Office.</p> <p>22 I have been a resident of Lee County since 1988, I  23 work in Lee County as a realtor and I am a property owner  24 in Lee County; I am very familiar with both the east and  25 west coast. I feel that while the current redistricting  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 MR. LAZZELL: Thank you for allowing me to speak. For  2 the record, I'm Rufus Lazzell, chairman of the Charlotte  3 County Republican Executive Committee. Very briefly here  4 are the concerns that many of us have over redistricting in  5 Charlotte County. Number one, as southwest Floridians we  6 do not want our Congressional Districts to be stretched  7 across the site. Any such realignment would cause a loss  8 of focus on Southwest Florida's particular needs and  9 concerns. Also, if such stretched Congressional Districts  10 were to occur, and with a population density favoring the  11 east coast we would have a fat chance of ever getting a  12 Congressman or a Congresswoman elected from Southwest  13 Florida.</p> <p>14 Number two, State Senate District 35 stretches across  15 the state to the West Palm Beach area and is precisely the  16 problem that I referred to regarding congressional  17 redistricting. Congressman Mark Foley once told me over a  18 cup of coffee in Punta Gorda while he was the State Senator  19 in this district that his district was the most nonsensical  20 that he had ever seen. We in Charlotte County have very  21 few precincts in this district. Please correct this  22 anomaly by eliminating that and getting it out of the  23 county.</p> <p>24 Number three, although we in Charlotte County would  25 like to have pure legislative districts, we realize that  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 issue is for the potential joining of the east and west  2 coast districts, it would have a disastrous effects on the  3 west coast of Florida. Our issues are not the same as the  4 issues on the east coast. The east coast is concerned with  5 mass transportation because the roads are overcrowded. We  6 are concerned with building roads for our growing  7 population.</p> <p>8 The east coast is trying to save an environment that  9 they have already destroyed. We have a sensitive  10 environment on the west coast that we are trying to  11 protect. The east coast is struggling to build a  12 residential base to support their business base, we are  13 trying to build a business base to support our residential  14 base. We are total opposites.</p> <p>15 While I love the east coast I do not want a  16 Legislature from the east coast making decisions for the  17 west coast. Legislatures are supposed to represent what  18 the population wants. The majority of the population is on  19 the east coast. With two distinctly areas of the state  20 being joined together I feel that our population will be  21 used to add power to what the east coast needs changed.  22 Therefore, we need our own representation. The west coast  23 has watched what has happened to the east coast and we are  24 here because we do not want the uncontrolled growth that's  25 occurred on the east coast to occur here. Thank you.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 16.</p> <p>2 MR. SORONEN: Good afternoon. My name is Erik</p> <p>3 Soronen, I'm from St. James City, Pine Island and Lee</p> <p>4 County. And I'm here to speak for my one vote and to</p> <p>5 protect my one vote. I understand the need for</p> <p>6 redistricting; however, I do not understand the need for an</p> <p>7 elected official not selected 100 percent by the population</p> <p>8 of Southwest Florida. Southwest Florida is a growing,</p> <p>9 developing area full of promise and its needs are unique.</p> <p>10 To redraw Southwest Florida districts so that we do</p> <p>11 not have the 100 percent support of our elected officials</p> <p>12 is not acceptable. Our area requires elected officials who</p> <p>13 live here, and more importantly, have to run for</p> <p>14 re-election here, whose 100 percent allegiance is here, not</p> <p>15 20 percent here and 80 percent somewhere else.</p> <p>16 And only by having our elected representatives from</p> <p>17 Southwest Florida will southwest Floridians achieve our</p> <p>18 full potential, thank you.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 17.</p> <p>20 MS. BERTOLINI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of</p> <p>21 the Delegation, I appreciate your coming down here to</p> <p>22 Southwest Florida, I know what you are going through. I do</p> <p>23 not represent any particular group in Lehigh Acres, Lehigh</p> <p>24 Acres is an unincorporated community of 104 square miles,</p> <p>25 some 30,000 people in Lee County. I come here specifically</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 is a 57-member public/private partnership that was put</p> <p>2 together ten years ago to promote the expansion of existing</p> <p>3 businesses in our community, the attraction of employers</p> <p>4 and businesses into our community to provide better</p> <p>5 opportunities for our citizens. As I mentioned, we are</p> <p>6 celebrating our entry 10th anniversary. We had the</p> <p>7 opportunity last week to celebrate Industry Appreciation</p> <p>8 Week, and at our Industry Appreciation luncheon we had over</p> <p>9 850 people there to represent to the community, but also to</p> <p>10 celebrate, but show the cohesiveness of our community with</p> <p>11 respect to issues such as the importance of business in our</p> <p>12 community, of extending our opportunities and promoting our</p> <p>13 tax base.</p> <p>14 That cohesiveness exists throughout our area, and I</p> <p>15 would like to read just briefly of our position in this</p> <p>16 regard. On September 7th, 2001, the executive committee of</p> <p>17 the Horizon Council unconditionally voted to support</p> <p>18 congressional redistricting plans that assures</p> <p>19 representatives and the Florida Legislature and the U.S.</p> <p>20 Congress reside in Southwest Florida. The Horizon Council</p> <p>21 specifically supports cohesive districts, whose geographic</p> <p>22 boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest Florida</p> <p>23 and protects the interests of all citizens who reside here.</p> <p>24 The council rejects all redistricting plans that would</p> <p>25 align any area, and that's any area, of Southwest Florida</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 to address the proposal that you will have before you for a</p> <p>2 perfect proposed redistricting map, which proposes to take</p> <p>3 Lehigh Acres in the eastern end of Florida and put it up</p> <p>4 into Sarasota County. That, ladies and gentlemen, is</p> <p>5 gerrymandering and I know what gerrymandering is, I spent</p> <p>6 20 years on Beacon Hill in Boston as a senator, as a</p> <p>7 representative, as a fiscal advisor to the general court,</p> <p>8 and as assistant to the Governor, I know what a gerrymander</p> <p>9 is.</p> <p>10 The people in Lehigh Acres didn't have any input into</p> <p>11 this particular proposal. I'm diametrically opposed to it.</p> <p>12 I want you to know that the people in Lehigh Acres are</p> <p>13 opposed to it, when they realize what it is attempting to</p> <p>14 do. Heaven forbid, I would have Kathryn Harris for a</p> <p>15 Congresswoman. I'll make a prediction, Porter Goss will</p> <p>16 stay right where he is at the request of President Bush.</p> <p>17 Thank you very much for your attention.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 18.</p> <p>19 MR. INGE: Chairman Webster, Senator Webster,</p> <p>20 committee, thank you all are being here in Southwest</p> <p>21 Florida. My name is Ron Inge, I'm vice-president of</p> <p>22 business development for Florida Rock Industries, but I</p> <p>23 have the privilege today of representing the Horizon</p> <p>24 Council of Lee County. And before my remarks I would like</p> <p>25 to tell you a little more about that. The Horizon Council</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 with political districts on the east coast of Florida. We</p> <p>2 are a community of common interests, we have a common</p> <p>3 transportation system which is in need of work, we have</p> <p>4 regional education facilities, evidenced by the facility</p> <p>5 that you are in today. We have regional planning agencies,</p> <p>6 we have an interdependent local economy, and we are just</p> <p>7 beginning to realize the synergies of melting all of that</p> <p>8 together in a unified effort that we as an area have to</p> <p>9 represent to the state and to the nation as a whole. So,</p> <p>10 again, we strongly suggest that you assure that the</p> <p>11 representatives for our area come from this area and not</p> <p>12 from some other area of the State of Florida. Thank you</p> <p>13 all for being here.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 19.</p> <p>15 MS. BEARD: Mr. Chairman, members of this council,</p> <p>16 ladies and gentlemen, my name is Frances Beard and I'm here</p> <p>17 representing the residents and the members of the Country</p> <p>18 Clubs Estates Civic Association of Lehigh Acres in the</p> <p>19 State of Florida in Lee County. I have a list of</p> <p>20 signatures by some of the members and their telephone</p> <p>21 numbers that I wish to present to you. They are 100</p> <p>22 percent opposed to any thought of removing Lehigh Acres</p> <p>23 from the county of Lee County for the purpose of</p> <p>24 redistricting our state. And we want our representatives</p> <p>25 from this area to represent us in our State Legislature and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 our Congress and Senate of this United States. Thank you 2 very much.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 20.</p> <p>4 MS. GUARDIANO: I'm Jan Guardiano and I'm speaking 5 today on the statement of fairness, which was brought up by 6 the People's Advocacy Center and endorsed by a number of 7 nonpartisan organizations, the Florida Consumer Action 8 Network, the Alliance of Retired Americans, the North 9 Florida Education Development Corporation, several women's 10 organizations, which Speaker Number 5 mentioned, and 11 several others. And partisan organizations, I am also 12 speaking for the Democratic Women's Club of Lee County 13 today. And this is one time when many Republicans and 14 Democrats have felt very strongly about this issue in 15 pretty much the same direction.</p> <p>16 The statement on fairness is -- well, I should say, I 17 was very pleased to hear the opening words of Senator 18 Daniel Webster that this will be an open and fair process. 19 So, in the line of statement on fairness, they have spelled 20 it out in part. And fairness means allowing the public to 21 have meaningful input into the reapportionment process. It 22 means a process and a plan that takes into consideration 23 the concerns of the State's diverse ethnic communities, 24 including the African-American, Haitian, Asian and Hispanic 25 communities, and it means listening to the public and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 the Democratic Women's Club of Charlotte County and I would 2 like to speak to you on a statement of fairness. You have 3 had the patrons from the organization and we wish to take, 4 ask you to please take this proposal serious, as everything 5 you do in the next year will affect us for the next ten 6 years, thank you.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 23.</p> <p>8 MS. BOREN: Good afternoon, my name is Katherine Boren 9 and I'm chairman of the Lee County School Board. First I 10 would like to thank you for your dedication and your 11 commitment to this process, I know it is not an easy job. 12 The latest data that we have shows that the Lee County 13 school district is the 60th largest in the nation out of 14 16,500 school districts. Our growth in the last ten years 15 has exceeded 34 percent over the state average.</p> <p>16 What we would ask of you is that our state, our 17 congressional representation, be familiar with the needs of 18 the west coast of Florida. Our needs are very specific. 19 It is important to the School Board of Lee County, it is 20 our preference that the Lee County School District, Lee 21 County is not divided as Congressional Districts are drawn. 22 We thank you.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 24.</p> <p>24 MS. DOHERTY: Good afternoon Chairman and Delegates, 25 my name is Michel Doherty and I'm a 17-year resident of DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 respecting their sense of communities of interest. It 2 means taking the time to understand areas of concern based 3 on environmental educational service, social service, and 4 other public policy concerns.</p> <p>5 And in light of having the people be a part of this 6 process, the statement on fairness asks that hearings be 7 held in more areas so that citizens do not have to travel 8 200 miles to be a part of this and that political 9 subdivisions, such as cities and counties, be considered 10 more strongly in the new proposals. And that the State 11 Legislature commit to holding public hearings after plans 12 are released so that the public can react, respond to 13 actual proposals. And that sufficient time be provided 14 before any legislative action to allow the public to 15 respond to all proposals that are to be considered at all 16 legislative meetings, including committee meetings and for 17 our votes, and more.</p> <p>18 And I would like to read one statement that is 19 included here. Fairness is what justice is, spoken by 20 Potter Stuart, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, 21 October 2nd, 1958.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 21. Number 21. 23 Number 22.</p> <p>24 MS WROBBEL: Thank you for allowing us to speak. I'm 25 Helen Wrobbel from Charlotte County and I'm representing DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 Cape Coral. To begin, I'm concerned by the selection of 2 this site and time of this meeting and I'm interested in 3 who made this decision. As a senior citizen and a retired 4 executive I can easily arrange my schedule to permit me to 5 address this panel; however, most citizens of Cape Coral 6 could not, as the average age of our citizens is 38.5 7 years. Therefore, I don't want you to -- I am sorry, most 8 cannot attend, as they are working to support their 9 families.</p> <p>10 Therefore, I don't want you to assume Cape Coral 11 voting citizens are not deeply concerned about the 12 reapportionment in Southwest Florida which could lead to a 13 catastrophic loss to Cape Coral of local representation by 14 persons already from -- not near to them. Our exceptional 15 Congressman Porter Goss, our current State Senator Burt 16 Saunders, who represents both the Greater Naples area and 17 especially the Cape Coral area of Lee County, and our State 18 Representative Jeff Kottkamp, a citizen of Cape Coral, have 19 fully staffed offices in Cape Coral and have been readily 20 accessible to our citizens during their terms of office. 21 They have sought to bring Cape Coral better roads, improved 22 education, expanded health opportunities, economic 23 development and smart growth throughout our area.</p> <p>24 These are some major items which must remain 25 geographically distinct between the east coast and the west DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 and the south -- between the east coast and the southwest  2 coast of Florida in order that our citizens feel recognized  3 and strongly represented. Cape Coral has been recognized  4 for its very strong voting citizenry, and therefore, it  5 would appear to all that any gerrymandering of this area in  6 order to move voters to other political districts would  7 greatly anger our voters. We want to be served by someone  8 who lives in our district, knows its people, knows their  9 needs and issues. Splitting this district would ultimately  10 result in less effective representation for the citizens of  11 Cape Coral, a very rapidly growing area.</p> <p>12 Please hear us and design a redistricting map that  13 responds to our concerns, not those from a distant  14 geographical Florida. I thank you for being here today.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. At this time we are  16 going to take a five-minute break for our court reporter,  17 she needs a break.</p> <p>18 (Brief recess.)</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I would like to start the meeting  20 again. There was a lady who came at 12:00 and she signed  21 in as number four and she did not hear her number and so we  22 are going to revert back to number four, if she's here.  23 Yes, you are recognized.</p> <p>24 MS. MASON: Well, I am number four, and I simply  25 didn't look at the pink slip and I would tell you I have no</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 "Good afternoon, my name is Troy Kelley, I work at  2 Florida Gulf Coast University and I am a member of the  3 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal  4 Employees. I want to thank you for coming to Fort Myers,  5 but I wish this were in the evening so more of my  6 co-workers could have attended. Poor Troy, if he only  7 knew.</p> <p>8 I'm very glad you are here in Fort Myers because I  9 think it's important for us to tell you we are not a suburb  10 of Palm Beach, Broward or Miami-Dade. We have a booming  11 population on the Gulf Coast and do not deserve to be  12 tacked on to some east coast district where we won't be  13 represented. I also want to request that the public be  14 allowed to comment on redistricting after you have drawn  15 maps. It's great that you are here now, but it would be  16 make sense to get input after lines are drafted.</p> <p>17 Finally, please consider using the most accurate  18 numbers possible. If adjusted census data is more accurate  19 we should use those adjusted numbers so that all of us are  20 counted. Thank you again for coming to Fort Myers and  21 listening to us."</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 26.</p> <p>23 MS. WHITE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members,  24 my name is Kathleen White and I am a resident of Cape Coral  25 and president of the Republican Women's Club of Cape Coral</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 paperwork. First of all, I have to admit that I am a damn  2 Yankee. I moved to Bonita Springs from New Hampshire 14  3 years ago. Bonita Springs was very much like New  4 Hampshire, it was a quiet community. Look at it today.  5 And the worst thing -- if you want to raise ire in Bonita  6 Springs, mention the east coast. The worst thing that you  7 can say is, some day we will look like Miami. I also  8 wanted to mention that I have been for the last ten years a  9 member of CAB, Citizens Association of Bonita Beach. We  10 are whole-heartedly against oil drilling in the Gulf.  11 Would the -- would the east coast feel the same way? It  12 wouldn't affect them. If we have a representative from the  13 east coast he may very well vote for oil drilling. I could  14 not hope for that. I don't mean to make people happy, but  15 Son of a Gun, I may move back to New Hampshire. Thank you.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 25.</p> <p>17 MR. BUNDY: Mr. Chairman, Senators and  18 Representatives, my name is Carter Bundy and I am with the  19 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal  20 Employees. I have a statement from Troy Kelly who is  21 actually the president of our local, right here at Gulf  22 Coast University, he was going to speak and found out about  23 noon that he actually had to go to work. So this is --  24 this is his statement. You need to talk to the president  25 about that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 Federated. I'm speaking on behalf of our 139 members and  2 associate members who have asked me to stress to you the  3 importance of keeping our southwest district in tact. The  4 City of Cape Coral is the largest city in the Southwest  5 Florida district with a population of 102,000 and we are  6 still growing. We desperately need someone who represents  7 us that lives in the area and fully recognizes the problems  8 of the area, someone that is close enough that they can  9 attend our meetings as they are doing right now, keeping  10 our members up-to-date and informed. Someone that is  11 close-by that we can go to their office with our problems,  12 our community needs, and speak to them on a one-on-one  13 basis instead of having to travel across the state.</p> <p>14 It is important that the City of Cape Coral have one  15 representative in the Florida House of Representatives and  16 not be split among the districts. We need full  17 representation, not less representation. Thank you for  18 giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 27.</p> <p>20 MS. HAYDEN: Good afternoon. For the record, Tracy  21 Hayden, president, Real Estate Investment Society. The  22 Real Estate Investment Society is an independent  23 organization dedicated to serving the real estate industry  24 in Southwest Florida and acting as an advocacy group for  25 property rights. Our 225 members are made up of real</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 estate brokers, developers, bankers, CPAs, financial  2 planners, engineers, attorneys, land planners, investors  3 and other valuable professionals involved in the real  4 estate profession. The society represents the real estate  5 investment profession to the media and government in  6 Florida. The Real Estate Investment Society Board of  7 Governors voted unanimously to support redistricting plans  8 that ensure the interests of the citizens of Southwest  9 Florida. Representatives who live, work and drive in  10 Southwest Florida will best understand the regional issues  11 related to the growth, transportation, education, and the  12 economy.  13 Collier, Lee, Charlotte, and Hendry counties all  14 exceeded the state growth rate of 23 percent. Based on the  15 growth criteria, Southwest Florida deserves additional  16 Congressional, State Senate and State House seats. It is  17 our fear that using bi-coastal or otherwise split districts  18 could ultimately result in less representation for the  19 citizens of this rapidly growing area.  20 The Real Estate Investment Society supports a cohesive  21 district whose geographic boundaries reflect the  22 demographics of Southwest Florida. I submit for public  23 record 39 letters from members and supporters in support of  24 this position, thank you.  25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 28.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. are not convenient for a working  2 person, nor was the FGCU site the most centrally located.  3 A better choice may have been Edison Community College in  4 the heart of Fort Myers. The committee needs to take more  5 care in making sure that these public hearings are truly  6 accessible to all citizens. We encourage you, our  7 lawmakers, to devise a fair redistricting plan that  8 recognizes Southwest Florida's particular needs and one  9 that ensures that the minority votes will not be diluted."  10 We thank you for your time, and I will leave a copy.  11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 29.  12 MS. FREEMAN: For the record, my name is Eva Freeman  13 and I am a resident here in Lee County. Having lived for  14 17 years in Miami-Dade County on the east coast and the  15 past 22 years here in Fort Myers on the west coast, I can  16 assure you that the difference and interests of the two are  17 substantial. I frequently travel back to the east coast  18 for business and pleasure. And I'm always struck by the  19 differences. A level of aggression and fast pace of the  20 east coast is palpable and uncomfortable to someone who  21 prefers the west coast where things are simply more laid  22 back. One may not be better than the other, but they are  23 clearly and certainly different.  24 To represent our west coast, it's imperative that the  25 people selected to represent us live, work, drive, and  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 MS. JOHNSON-STEVENS: Good afternoon, Chairman and  2 members of the committee, my name is Cecile Johnson-Stevens  3 and I'm here today just as a regular citizen who has lived  4 eight years in Cape Coral and has four children in the  5 system and three in the Lee County school system. I'm  6 reading this letter for myself and also for my husband.  7 "As registered voters and residents of Lee County, we would  8 like you to know that we strongly support redistricting  9 plans that assure that the interests of the citizens of  10 Southwest Florida are met. We are aware that because of  11 growth some redistricting will have to take place, but we  12 would like to see Lee and Collier County included in the  13 same district since many of our issues and concerns are the  14 same.  15 We feel that local representation in the Florida State  16 Legislature and in the U.S. Congress is essential for the  17 growth and future success of the Southwest Florida region.  18 To ensure this, we support a cohesive district whose  19 geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest  20 Florida and our Gulf coast concerns, not one that links us  21 up to any political district on the east coast of Florida.  22 Please also note that your scheduling of these three  23 meetings for Southwest Florida could have reflected more  24 care in trying to reach the average working person as far  25 as location and meeting times are concerned. Meetings at  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 educate their families here in order to know us and  2 represent us well. They must have the intimate knowledge  3 of our roads and infrastructure, our coastal and  4 environmental issues, our schools and water is quality,  5 quantity and control. They can only gain this knowledge by  6 being part of this community day-to-day.  7 In short, we want representatives at both the state  8 and federal levels who truly care about us and our  9 concerns, not just getting our votes. Our population  10 growth, simply by sheer numbers dictates that Lee, Collier  11 and Charlotte counties deserve more representation now than  12 they did in 1990, certainly not less. The boundaries  13 currently in place have served both east and west coasts  14 well.  15 Please add or subtract representation by these  16 population figures, do not redistrict so that the integrity  17 and the fundamental characteristics of Southwest Florida  18 are no longer fairly nor accurately served. Our current  19 representatives know the composition of our communities  20 through touching, seeing and living here day-to-day, not by  21 reading about us via statistics and newspaper articles. In  22 short, we are asking simply for the just and reasonable  23 decision, leave our district substantially intact. They  24 have and will continue to serve us well. Thank you for  25 your time.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 30.</p> <p>2 MR. HUTCHCRAFT: Good afternoon. For the record, my</p> <p>3 name is Mitch Hutchcraft, and I would just like to thank</p> <p>4 you all for being here and taking time to hear from the</p> <p>5 citizens of Southwest Florida. I am a resident of Lee</p> <p>6 County and have been a resident for 25 years. I'm a</p> <p>7 graduate of Leadership Bonita and I worked as planning</p> <p>8 director for the Baron-Collier family in Collier County. I</p> <p>9 think I truly represent that this is a unified, cohesive</p> <p>10 community. I'm here today to request that reapportionment,</p> <p>11 make sure that our representation lives and works in</p> <p>12 Southwest Florida. And let me give you a few reasons why.</p> <p>13 Each day I drive to work from Lee County to Collier</p> <p>14 County, as do a number of residents from Lee County and</p> <p>15 Lehigh Acres. Trust me, there is a transportation issue in</p> <p>16 Southwest Florida, and it is a significant one. I'm</p> <p>17 planning to pursue an MBA degree at Florida Gulf coast</p> <p>18 University as a number of my coworkers have. We do have a</p> <p>19 regional education system in Southwest Florida with Gulf</p> <p>20 Coast University and Edison Community College.</p> <p>21 As a planner I deal daily with issues involving</p> <p>22 growth, natural resources, transportation and tourism. Our</p> <p>23 regional approach to addressing these issues is going to be</p> <p>24 a significant key. These issues are all complicated issues</p> <p>25 and they are all very integrated in Southwest Florida,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 want to say something from our office before, if you</p> <p>2 wouldn't mind, Carole Greene to read the letter that Porter</p> <p>3 wrote. If you have -- even if you listened to all of the</p> <p>4 people who have talked, you have 51,000 people too many for</p> <p>5 a Lee/Collier district. Our office is not endorsing any</p> <p>6 map or how to do that and it is going to be a rough</p> <p>7 decision. There's no way, even in the most, best of</p> <p>8 circumstances that the courts or the Governor or anybody</p> <p>9 would approve Lee and Collier totally together for a</p> <p>10 Congressional District because it's too many people. So,</p> <p>11 you have your work cut out for you and I wish you luck.</p> <p>12 But we are not endorsing -- you have got one map last night</p> <p>13 and I think you will be getting some more maps of possible</p> <p>14 ways of dividing, but it is not coming from us. And would</p> <p>15 you mind if Carole read the letter again into the record.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: If she can read it in two minutes</p> <p>17 and 45 seconds.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE GREEN: We will see how fast I can read</p> <p>19 now. "Dear committee members, for the past 37 years</p> <p>20 Southwest Florida has been my home. In that time the area</p> <p>21 has seen amazing growth. While Florida experienced a</p> <p>22 23 percent growth rate in the last census, Charlotte County</p> <p>23 has grown by 27.62 percent, Lee County by 31.56 percent,</p> <p>24 and Collier County by 65.27 percent, making it the second</p> <p>25 fastest growing county in the United States.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 because the area has become geographically compact and</p> <p>2 economically and politically cohesive. I have seen this</p> <p>3 area grow dramatically since 1976. And I expect that this</p> <p>4 area will continue to grow well above the state's average.</p> <p>5 This continuous growth rate requires a unified effort from</p> <p>6 representatives who live and work and drive in Southwest</p> <p>7 Florida because they will best understand the region's</p> <p>8 issues as they relate to these issues.</p> <p>9 I believe that redistricting in Southwest Florida</p> <p>10 using a bi-coastal or otherwise split district will not</p> <p>11 provide adequate representation to the citizens of</p> <p>12 Southwest Florida. I applaud and respect our current</p> <p>13 representation and I request and urge you to investigate,</p> <p>14 to consider a redistricting plan that will keep the common</p> <p>15 needs and interests of Southwest Florida represented by</p> <p>16 people that live in Southwest Florida. Thank you.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 31.</p> <p>18 MS. WOOLEY: My name is Sheryl Wooley, I'm chief of</p> <p>19 staff to Congressman Goss, and you all are probably tired</p> <p>20 of seeing me up here. I wanted to first say a couple of</p> <p>21 things. A man spoke about President Bush picking a member</p> <p>22 of Congress, and I just don't -- I just want you to know, I</p> <p>23 don't think that is in his job description nor would we</p> <p>24 want someone from Washington picking our congressman. But</p> <p>25 the other thing is your job is very difficult and I just</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 As you probably know, this makes the 14th</p> <p>2 Congressional District the second fastest growing in the</p> <p>3 state. This rapid growth on the west coast of Florida</p> <p>4 dictates that there will need to be some minor shifting of</p> <p>5 the Congressional boundaries; however, it is imperative</p> <p>6 that you retain the integrity of Southwest Florida. I</p> <p>7 believe you well understand that Southwest Florida is a</p> <p>8 community with regional networks in the areas of</p> <p>9 transportation, economics, education and planning.</p> <p>10 Florida's newest university, Florida Gulf Coast</p> <p>11 University, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and</p> <p>12 Southwest Florida International Airport are just a few</p> <p>13 examples of initiatives around which the area has</p> <p>14 progressed.</p> <p>15 When I first moved here Southwest Florida was</p> <p>16 fractioned among many separate entities. Serving in local</p> <p>17 government as a mayor and county commissioner before</p> <p>18 representing this area in Washington, D.C. I have watched</p> <p>19 the development of regional purpose through cooperation.</p> <p>20 I'm proud of southwest Floridians for living and working</p> <p>21 together to achieve common goals. This achievement,</p> <p>22 coupled with the significant growth should be rewarded with</p> <p>23 stronger west coast Congressional representation.</p> <p>24 On another note, my Congressional office handles</p> <p>25 between 5,000 and 6,000 cases a year, which is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 significantly higher than many offices in Florida and  2 throughout the United States. Of these cases,  3 approximately 57 percent are walk-ins and 30 percent are  4 received by mail, with the remainder being a combination of  5 phone, E-mail, and fax.</p> <p>6 Regardless of how the cases arrive in our offices,  7 many of the individuals eventually sit down with me or my  8 staff during the duration of their case. It would be  9 tremendously unfair to deprive my constituents of this  10 face-to-face contact and impose on them a far-reaching  11 district that would necessitate additional time and money  12 for travel and long distance phone calls in order to reach  13 out to their congressional offices.</p> <p>14 Further, as I'm sure you are aware, Collier County is  15 one of the five counties named in the Voter's Rights Act of  16 1965. This puts an additional burden on you to be sure  17 that nothing is done to disenfranchise those who do not  18 consider English their first language. Many of the cases  19 grant in special clauses handled by my office serve these  20 groups, and it would be unfortunate for them to be put in  21 the position of unfair competition in order to be heard and  22 get their fair share.</p> <p>23 It is definitely a challenge for you and the other  24 committee members to be mindful of our sense of community  25 and resist the temptation to develop districts that run</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 census was all about. And in my speeches and my workshops  2 and my seminars it was really important that they  3 understood that this moment was going to come. And I'm  4 happy to be here as a private resident and I decided to  5 stay and live in Lee County. I have been here since 1988,  6 and I founded a nonprofit organization called, Institute  7 for the Development of Latin Culture. My goal is to help  8 the Hispanic community integrate completely into the  9 market, as far as commerce or educational or any of those  10 places, to help them have a better life here in the United  11 States.</p> <p>12 It is instrumental that you study real carefully the  13 redistricting because a lot of the constituents that I  14 spoke to they are aware that there's going to be changes  15 and there is going to be people that are going to be coming  16 to them to speak about the changes, to listen to them, what  17 their needs are and what they need in those communities.  18 So, they have been advised about this.</p> <p>19 I just wanted to voice that to you today because I  20 thought it was important that you knew, as someone that  21 really worked that base and really made it a point to them  22 that this is going to be important for them. It's also  23 very instrumental and vital that whoever chooses to  24 represent our region understands the needs of those  25 pockets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 east west across the state. Southwest Florida has too long  2 been the stepchild of our state, we have grown up, so  3 attempting to assimilate into the east coast of Florida  4 would be a travesty and would destroy the identity we have  5 worked so hard to achieve. Therefore, I implore you to do  6 what is necessary to keep Southwest Florida's identity  7 intact. Thank you for your consideration of these issues,  8 I wish you well in your difficult undertaking, kindest  9 regards, Porter Goss."</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You are a faster reader than  11 Representative Goodlette. Number 32.</p> <p>12 MR. ROSADO: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,  13 Members of the Senate and House of Representatives as well  14 as local delegation members, thank you for allowing me the  15 four minutes to speak today. My name is Mickey Rosado, I  16 work with the Department of Commerce Census Bureau, I  17 represented the 10 counties in Southwest Florida. My job  18 in the endeavor in the decennial count was to work  19 particularly the HD communities, the hard-to-enumerate  20 communities. I see a lot of my partners here with the  21 census, Mr. Thomas to my left and Carlitha Williams with  22 the NAACP.</p> <p>23 Together we formed subcommittees to outreach to the  24 constituents in the different areas. Our job was to  25 educate the folks that really didn't understand what the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 A lot of us, sometimes we seem to drive by and we  2 don't stop and patronize the businesses, and we know they  3 are there but we just don't really have no understanding,  4 and it's vital that those individuals do understand and I'm  5 here to assist in guiding them along those roads and  6 visiting some of those venues so that they have a better  7 understanding of what their needs are. I think that they  8 have to have a pulse, a hand on the pulse of that  9 community.</p> <p>10 I always said that in meetings, that a lot of the  11 folks that we were trying to outreach to didn't really  12 understand how to outreach to the Hispanic community. The  13 two numbers in Collier County, this 49,522 Hispanics, in  14 Lee County there is 42,022 Hispanics in Lee County. In  15 both counties now we are, the Hispanics, the largest  16 minority groups in those counties, so it is very  17 instrumental that you understand that studying those facts.</p> <p>18 Collier County, particularly the Immokalee area, I  19 knew there would be a lot of changes, a lot of folks, as  20 you know, of Hispanic or Latino dissent are moving to  21 Southwest Florida.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.</p> <p>23 MR. ROSADO: They are finding this area to be one of  24 the greatest places to live in Florida, so we hope that you  25 consider that, and the people that are listening to me</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 everywhere else, that come and walk the grounds so they  2 understand what the feel is. Thank you very much.  3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 33.  4 MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon Chairman Webster, Chairman  5 Byrd, honorable committee members, my name is Ray Murphy,  6 I'm currently the vice-mayor of the town of Fort Myers  7 Beach and also the vice-chairman of the Southwest Florida  8 Regional Planning Council. I would like to speak to you  9 today about regionalism. Southwest Florida has been  10 experiencing a sense of regionalism the likes of which we  11 have never seen before. City council members, county  12 commissioners, state representatives and senators, federal  13 officials, those in education, those in business, and those  14 who protect our environment have been working diligently  15 together to address our common needs and concerns.  16 Southwest Floridians have banded together in the  17 realization that the competition for limited federal and  18 state funding is fierce and that we are best served when we  19 are united together as a region. We want to keep our  20 region strong. We do not want to dilute the strength of  21 our region by including those with whom we now compete.  22 Thank you very much.  23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 34.  24 MR. SHRADER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and  25 committee persons. For the record, I'm Bob Shrader of the  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 questionnaire assistance centers which focused on people  2 that could not speak English and were afraid of government  3 basically. We were trying to bring government out in the  4 open, let them know that we are here to help them, help  5 them get counted so that their needs could be met. The  6 last thing in the world that we wanted was to be split up  7 and sent over to the east coast.  8 So, if we had that to revisit we might not have done  9 that if we thought we were going to end up that way. I  10 would like to also thank Mickey and some other people that  11 showed up from Census 2000. It was a group effort. We had  12 to bring in another district that was basically split  13 between Cape Coral and Port Charlotte and they came down  14 and helped us finish our count, which we would not have if  15 they had not done that. We just didn't have enough people  16 because there's more people here than we bargained for and  17 a lot of people that had just been brought into the  18 community. We didn't have new maps, we had old maps, we  19 have streets that are overloaded. Our transportation  20 system is basically north and south. If you want to go to  21 the east coast you have to go on Highway 80 or I-75.  22 Highway 80 is kind of dangerous trip at night, and also  23 I-75, that's limiting and then in the wintertime, so I hope  24 that we don't have to do that.  25 And I just want to thank you for coming. Thank you.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 Lee County Republican State Committee Man. I have the  2 opportunity to present two items, if I may. I will  3 summarize them. One is a resolution presented by the  4 business people for Political Action Committee, UPAC as it  5 is locally known. I'll pick up one item, whereas Lee,  6 Collier and Charlotte Counties are unique geographically  7 and distinct southwest Floridians in many respects, such as  8 integrated by common transportation networks, joint  9 involvement in regional agencies, in taxing authorities,  10 local economics, tied to similar resources in many other  11 respects.  12 And my own personal statement I will summarize to,  13 know and understand the legislative needs and requirements  14 for such Congressional Districts, it is imperative that the  15 new congressional representatives reside in the unique  16 environments of Southwest Florida. With the UPAC  17 resolution, I have the resolution and covered letters,  18 there is a stack of them. And the cover letters are all  19 for you, Mr. Boyd, if he's here. He is not here. Okay,  20 thank you.  21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 35.  22 MS. DOYLE: Good afternoon, and welcome, and I am glad  23 to see you all here. My name is Karen Doyle and I used to  24 work for Census 2000. I was assistant to the director  25 there and I was also very instrumental in helping set up  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 36.  2 MS. O'BRYAN: Mr. Chairman and members of the  3 commission, my name is Susan O'Bryan. I'm one of those  4 realtors, but I'm also a 17-year resident of Southwest  5 Florida. If we had mountains between east and west coast,  6 it may have been easier to see the redistricting on a more  7 simpler line. We don't have a mountain range, but we do  8 have an attitude range. Representation needs active  9 involvement, I think we all realize that. I believe you  10 can't consider yourself a representative of an area if you  11 don't normally shop, eat, work, play, or listen there. If  12 I sneeze I want my representative to know if it's because I  13 have wet feet or wind blowing dust in my face, and I would  14 like him or her to be able to hand me a hankie, not mail  15 it. Thank you.  16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 37.  17 MS. SCHNELL: Good afternoon, my name is Patti Schnell  18 and I am the executive director of the Cape Coral  19 Construction Industry Association. I represent an  20 organization of hundreds of businesses employing thousands  21 and thousands of people working as builders, subcontractors  22 and related businesses in Southwest Florida. As you  23 probably know, Cape Coral is definitely a city on the move.  24 It is the largest populated city between Tampa and Miami  25 and is only at one-third of the population that it is  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 expected to be at buildout, which will take us to around 2 400,000 people.</p> <p>3 With most of our growth ahead of us, decisions being 4 made on a state and national level are very important to 5 our residents as well as those that will make Cape Coral 6 home in the next ten years. So, today I speak for those 7 thousands of residents that work in the industry and the 8 hundreds of thousands that will move to our area in the 9 future. They all want pretty much the same thing, other 10 than our beautiful weather, they want affordable health 11 care, quality education for their children, decent roads to 12 drive on, and safe neighborhoods. They want fair 13 representation. They work hard for it and they deserve it. 14 They don't want a Legislature from the east coast or from 15 the Sarasota Tampa area representing their interests, they 16 want their representatives to understand their issues, live 17 in their community, shop in their stores, drive on their 18 roads, they want them to be a part of our community. They 19 want a Congressional District that accurately reflects the 20 demographics and unique interests of Southwest Florida.</p> <p>21 They sent me here to ask you to keep Lee County 22 together as you create our new Congressional and 23 legislative districts. On behalf of these constituents 24 that are out there right now building our future, we hope 25 you are listening. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 elected and four permanent member seats, one from each 2 Lehigh special taxing district, and four permanent member 3 seats from the Chamber of Commerce, Ministerial 4 Association, the President's Club, and the Joint Veterans 5 Association.</p> <p>6 And whereas the community council's membership, 7 consisting of these 12 elected and 8 permanent member 8 seats, represent a substantial majority of the Lehigh 9 Acres' residents, voters, and taxpayers who have a vested 10 interest in our community.</p> <p>11 And whereas it's been brought to the attention and 12 concern of the community council and its membership that 13 the legislative bodies of the State of Florida and the 14 United States are in the process of redistricting state and 15 Congressional seats as a result of the reapportionment 16 caused by the increased growth in the State of Florida. 17 And whereas Southwest Florida, and in particular, Lee and 18 Collier Counties are at the heart and the driving force of 19 this tremendous growth experienced by our state.</p> <p>20 And whereas these Gulf coast communities together are 21 dealing with this growth and additionally share in numerous 22 other infrastructure, economic, and sociological 23 similarities.</p> <p>24 And whereas, it is the opinion of our council and its 25 membership that the overwhelming majority of citizens and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 38 has 2 withdrawn. Number 39.</p> <p>3 MR. ANGLICKIS: For the record, my name is Rick 4 Anglickis, and in case you haven't noticed, I love America. 5 Today I'm appearing before you as an elected member of the 6 community council and vice-president of the community 7 council of Lehigh Acres, Florida. And I want to share with 8 you a resolution that we will be sending to the Lee County 9 legislative delegation. Of course, we have to mail it to 10 our Senator and the members of the Senate and House 11 committees on Reapportionment and Redistricting. That 12 resolution, "Whereas, the community of Lehigh Acres is home 13 to more than 30,000 residents, and within its over 100 14 square miles of platted property, has more than 125,000 Lee 15 County taxpayers. And whereas the vast area of population 16 and taxpayer base makes up the largest easternmost 17 identifiable area of Lee County and is the largest 18 unincorporated defined area in Lee County. And whereas, 19 over three decades ago, the residents, businesses, and 20 community leaders, sought to establish an entity to speak 21 as a unified voice to local state and national governmental 22 bodies and officials about the concerns of Lehigh Acres' 23 residents and taxpayers.</p> <p>24 And whereas the formation of the community council of 25 Lehigh Acres was established and today is made up of 12</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 taxpayers of Lehigh Acres that any redistricting plan 2 initiated by the Legislature that would separate these two 3 counties or any part thereof, or link them together with 4 any other nonSouthwest Florida Gulf coast community would 5 adversely affect the economic and social welfare of the 6 residents of this area. Therefore, be it resolved that the 7 community council of Lehigh Acres strongly urges the 8 Legislature to consider only those redistricting plans that 9 keep the unique aspects of Southwest Florida Gulf coast 10 communities together so that their common interests can 11 best be served by those elected and those who reside in 12 these areas. This resolution was approved and adopted and 13 will be mailed, as I have stated before. Thank you very 14 much for your time.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 40.</p> <p>16 MR. BAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Willard Baker, 17 I am the president of Lehigh Acres Community Council, past 18 president of the Lehigh Acres Kiwanis Club, past president 19 of the Shrine Club, and past elected official of East 20 Gunnery Water Control District. And as such, I am pretty 21 well known in Lehigh Acres. And the citizens have been 22 contacting me all day and night telling me that they are up 23 in arms at the possibility of isolating Lehigh Acres from 24 Lee County and including us in the eastern parts of the 25 state. If you include us in the eastern district it will</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 be difficult to get someone elected from our side of the  2 state. Any representatives that we might nominate might  3 not be able to get elected, as Lehigh Acres will be  4 outvoted. We would be a minority. Representatives from  5 the eastern side of the state will not know our problems,  6 as our problems on our side of the state is completely  7 different from those on the eastern side of the state. It  8 would be too far for our citizens to drive to the other  9 side of the state to air out our problems with our  10 representative over there on that side of the state. By  11 linking Lehigh Acres with east coast Florida voters you  12 would in fact disenfranchise 30,000 residents of Lehigh  13 Acres who have no similar interests economically or  14 socially with those fine residents of the east coast.  15 Please try and take 30,000 residents from the heart of Palm  16 Beach County, link them with 600,000 of Lee and Collier  17 County, and listen to what they would say to you.</p> <p>18 I want to thank you members of the Legislature who are  19 here today. My Senator, who resides on the east coast of  20 Florida, is not here. That in and of itself should speak  21 to the districts that are gerryminded by politicians  22 without disregard to those who they represent.</p> <p>23 So, in closing, I'll ask you to please give it some  24 thought when you redraw the districts and keep Lehigh Acres  25 intact with Lee County and Southwest Florida. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 Florida's second largest land area city and one of the  2 fastest growing communities in the United States, I'm here  3 to urge you to preserve the geographically compact,  4 economically diverse, and politically cohesive character of  5 Southwest Florida. As the Cape continues to develop so  6 will its desire to contribute to the smart growth of one of  7 Florida's emerging centers of commerce and quality living.  8 The splitting of Southwest Florida and Cape Coral into  9 different voting districts will hinder such planning for  10 sustainable growth and I believe disenfranchises voters who  11 care so very much about the future of this region.</p> <p>12 Council member Tim Day will be speaking to you later  13 and bringing to you a copy of our City Council's recent  14 resolution supporting a cohesive Southwest Florida  15 district. On behalf of the community of Cape Coral, thank  16 you and may God bless and guide you in this very important  17 decision.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 43.</p> <p>19 MS. GRIFFIN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of  20 the committee, my name is Carletta Griffin, I serve as the  21 president of the Lee County branch of the National  22 Association of Advancement for Colored People. First, let  23 me thank the committee for the opportunity to make this  24 brief statement for the record at this hearing. The  25 Florida State Conference of Branches will make a full</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 42. Forty-one,  2 I am sorry.</p> <p>3 MS. KESSLER: Thank you for this opportunity. My name  4 Myra Kessler, I am a 40-year resident of Lehigh Acres.  5 Now, I serve on several boards in the community and I got  6 several calls from some of those board members. And what  7 initiated the calls was an article in Saturday's News Press  8 where our people read that Collier County Democrats and  9 Republicans chose to exclude Lehigh Acres from the  10 Southwest Florida district. A Mr. Multy (phonetic), I  11 think I've got his name right, said they didn't make the  12 same noise about Lehigh Acres as Lee residents. Well, we  13 are here to make that noise today.</p> <p>14 (Applause.)</p> <p>15 MS. KESSLER: Lehigh contributes a great deal to the  16 Lee County economy and with its current growth will have  17 even a larger role than in the past. We want to put -- we  18 want to be part of Lee County, we want to stay together.  19 On a personal note, if you will allow me. Today I think  20 was a wonderful example of our democracy, and considering  21 the times we live in, God Bless America.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 42.</p> <p>23 MR. JOHNS: Good afternoon members of the Senate and  24 House Redistricting Committee, my name is Bob Johns and I'm  25 here representing the City of Cape Coral, Florida. As</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 statement to this body prior to the conclusion of these  2 hearings in October.</p> <p>3 There are a number of things that concern us about the  4 redistricting process. The most important element at this  5 point is the nature of the standards that the Florida  6 Legislature will use in joining legislators in  7 Congressional Districts. The standards that you establish  8 will impact this state and its constituencies for the next  9 ten years. These standards will determine whether this  10 state adheres to the concept of one person, one vote. And  11 they will certainly determine whether all of the voters of  12 this state have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of  13 their choice to the State House, the State Senate, and to  14 the United States Congress.</p> <p>15 It is equally important to the NAACP that you develop  16 a process that respects the principle of no regression.  17 The past two redistricting sessions created a number of  18 opportunities that allowed various communities to be able  19 to elect candidates of their choice for the first time in  20 the modern history of the state. We believe that those  21 opportunities must be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>22 The NAACP believes that the redistricting process must  23 preserve the concept of minority representation. The  24 redistricting process that you will undertake will  25 drastically reshape the political map of this state. The</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 growth in population and the accompanying need to increase  2 the population of legislative districts is significant.  3 A brief review of the current maps show that most of  4 the districts currently considered to be majority minority  5 districts are currently underpopulated. It is important  6 that care be taken to ensure the character of these  7 districts and to ensure that communities with common  8 interests be kept together. The people who are served by  9 these districts must influence the determination of common  10 interest.  11 It's also important, as you provide these public  12 opportunities for input into the way that the process will  13 be carried out, that you provide an equal opportunity for  14 input in the actual process of drawing districts. There  15 are many -- there are any number of groups that will seek  16 to influence this activity. It is very important that you  17 provide every opportunity through as many avenues as  18 possible to allow all interested parties to actually  19 participate in crafting the districts which will serve them  20 during the next ten years.  21 The NAACP looks forward to working with the members of  22 this committee and your staff persons during the next few  23 months on behalf of the National Association for the  24 Advancement of Colored People. It is important that when  25 this process is complete that the constituencies are  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 Commerce representing 1,170 businesses with more than  2 15,000 employees. The Chamber's board of directors at its  3 August 25th meeting voted unanimously to request that you  4 consider redistricting plans that ensure that Southwest  5 Florida representatives to the Florida Legislature and the  6 U.S. Congress reside in Southwest Florida.  7 Southwest Florida is a unique community. Our  8 demographics are unique and a homogeneous region. We  9 encompass a large population of senior citizens and will  10 continue to grow with the aging of the population. Over  11 the years communities in Southwest Florida together have  12 developed a cooperative approach at working towards  13 solutions.  14 We can work well together and on economic development  15 issues, on tourism, and on transportation. We believe that  16 this cooperation can only be achieved and enhanced by  17 preserving local representation in the legislative bodies.  18 Thank you for your attention.  19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 47.  20 MR. BERMING: Senator Webster and committee, you have  21 a difficult assignment, I know that from personal  22 experience, so my sympathies are with you. But we thank  23 you and your staff and all of the members for being here  24 and spending this interminable time. It's been a long time  25 for you and you have heard it all, so I don't want to be  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 convinced that their power is -- that their power --  2 convinced that there is power in their vote.  3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.  4 MS. GRIFFIN: This means that they must be clearly  5 able to influence the election of those people who will  6 make public policy in their communities. This means that  7 the standards that you apply to this process, as well as  8 the process itself, must be true to our democratic  9 principles. Thank you for this opportunity and I would  10 like to submit this statement for the record.  11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 44. Number 44.  12 Number 45. Number 46. Forty-five.  13 MR. TANNER: Good afternoon, my name is Jack Tanner, I  14 am the chairman of the Libertarian party in Lee County;  15 29,000 voted for the Libertarian candidate for county  16 commissioner. We believe that the citizens will be best  17 served by reducing the size and intrusiveness of government  18 and keeping our district nominated by Lee and Collier  19 County. Thank you.  20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 46.  21 MS. SWEETLAND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and  22 committee members, I'm Deborah Sweetland, administrative  23 director at Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte,  24 Florida. I'm here today as a member of the Government  25 Affairs Committee of the Charlotte County Chamber of  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 redundant. Simply put, our people object to tentacle-like  2 districts stretching across the state to satisfy some  3 ambitions of other office seekers. Our plea is simple,  4 please retain our West Florida district, thank you.  5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 48.  6 MR. QUAINANCE: Good afternoon, my name is Mike  7 Quaintance, I am the president of the Cape Coral Chamber of  8 Commerce. We have approximately 700 members representing  9 about 15,000 employees, and since I get paid by the word  10 I'll keep my comments brief. Just kidding.  11 This is the position of the Cape Coral Chamber of  12 Commerce Board of Directors. The Chamber of Commerce of  13 Cape Coral Board of Directors has taken an official stance  14 regarding the redistricting of Congressional seats in  15 Southwest Florida. We, the board of directors for the  16 Chamber of Commerce for Cape Coral support cohesive  17 districts whose geographical boundaries reflect the  18 demographics of Southwest Florida. We firmly believe that  19 there are many geographical distinctions between the east  20 coast and the west coast of Florida and that by combining  21 east and west coast districts, those districts would not be  22 well served. Therefore, we specifically reject  23 redistricting plans that may link Southwest Florida with  24 any political districts on the east coast of Florida and  25 support those plans that would keep Lee County and Collier  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 County together. Thank you.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 49. Number 50.</p> <p>3 MS. PEARSON: Good evening, almost, ladies and</p> <p>4 gentlemen. It must feel like that by now. I'm Caren</p> <p>5 Pearson, I'm a member of Leadership Lee County this year</p> <p>6 and I want to thank you for this opportunity to address you</p> <p>7 today. I would like to express my opinion on the matter of</p> <p>8 redistricting.</p> <p>9 As you know, Southwest Florida is a unique area that's</p> <p>10 cohesive, economically, environmentally, and educationally.</p> <p>11 As you address the redistricting process, please assure us</p> <p>12 that the geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of</p> <p>13 Southwest Florida. Citizens of our area are best served by</p> <p>14 having representatives who live here and understand our</p> <p>15 needs. Our area has a high rate of growth that should</p> <p>16 result in a higher representation, not in a lower one.</p> <p>17 Please maintain the integrity of our area together and not</p> <p>18 dilute our political voice by attaching any part of</p> <p>19 Southwest Florida to any part of the east coast district,</p> <p>20 thank you very much.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 51.</p> <p>22 MR. ROBERTS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of</p> <p>23 the committee my name is Gene Roberts, I am chairman of the</p> <p>24 Democratic Executive Committee for Lee County. I would</p> <p>25 like to welcome you to Southwest Florida, a place we call</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 and Hendry counties are covered by the jurisdiction under</p> <p>2 those provisions. And the Federal Voting Rights Act will</p> <p>3 remain so until 2007, and I know you are aware of that. It</p> <p>4 makes your job difficult.</p> <p>5 And the Act requires that any covered jurisdiction is</p> <p>6 to preclear its changes in the electoral laws and any vote</p> <p>7 qualifications to prerequisite to the voting or standard</p> <p>8 practice or procedure with respect to the voting with the</p> <p>9 U.S. Department of Justice before any change could take</p> <p>10 effect.</p> <p>11 Basically, you have got a difficult job and what we</p> <p>12 are asking you to do is respect our community wishes. It's</p> <p>13 often been said that the government that governs closest to</p> <p>14 the people governs best, and you are very close to the</p> <p>15 people of Southwest Florida this afternoon. And we are</p> <p>16 asking you to be representatives of our wishes. When you</p> <p>17 went out, each of you, and campaigned in your districts,</p> <p>18 whether it was for State Senator or State Rep, you asked</p> <p>19 for the job and you may not have considered how difficult</p> <p>20 it would be at the time. And we are asking you to accept</p> <p>21 the difficult challenge to draw the lines north and south</p> <p>22 on the west coast of Florida, not east and west.</p> <p>23 We hope that you will accept that challenge, no matter</p> <p>24 how difficult it is, and serve the needs of your</p> <p>25 constituents and prove out that the government that is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 home, the rest of the world refers to as paradise. The</p> <p>2 existing district, Congressional District 14 respects</p> <p>3 existing political boundaries, shared topographical</p> <p>4 features, and it was designed with strict adherence to</p> <p>5 equal population, one person, one vote rule. Including</p> <p>6 Collier and Lee and part of Charlotte County into a new</p> <p>7 Congressional District with the east coast counties will</p> <p>8 create an asymmetrical district inconsistent with standards</p> <p>9 important to existing -- the existing district citizens.</p> <p>10 Retrogression to new and balanced district systems that</p> <p>11 does not improve on the representative district now in</p> <p>12 place will not further the joint interests of the language</p> <p>13 and racial minority residents of Collier and Lee Counties.</p> <p>14 The growth of Southwest Florida from 1990 to 2000, the</p> <p>15 State of Florida's population growth by 23 percent, yet</p> <p>16 Southwest Florida's counties, Charlotte, Collier and Lee,</p> <p>17 comprised of the 14th Congressional District, grew</p> <p>18 significantly, making the Congressional District No. 14 the</p> <p>19 State's second fastest growing Congressional District in</p> <p>20 this decade.</p> <p>21 Collier County experienced 65 percent growth, Lee</p> <p>22 County, 32 percent, Charlotte County, 28 percent. Growth</p> <p>23 alone would entitled Southwest Florida to an additional</p> <p>24 Congressional District and an additional State Senate and</p> <p>25 House Districts. The Voting Rights Act of '65 in Collier</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 closest to the people does govern best. Thank you very</p> <p>2 much for coming to our area.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR. ROBERTS: I would like to ask one more thing, and</p> <p>5 that is that you do try to make sure that accommodations</p> <p>6 for these hearings is more accessible. It's very difficult</p> <p>7 for people who have to work in the daytime to come to them,</p> <p>8 and also a more centralized location would be more</p> <p>9 accessible to many people. Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 52. Number 52. Number 53.</p> <p>11 Number 54. Number 55.</p> <p>12 MR. BERQUEUIST: Welcome, chairman, committee members,</p> <p>13 local delegation. For the record my name is Bill Bereuist,</p> <p>14 resident of Lee County. I would like to thank each and</p> <p>15 every one of you for the dedication and the time commitment</p> <p>16 that you are making to this, your part-time job. When I</p> <p>17 came here earlier today I met many of you and I would like</p> <p>18 to thank you for your frankness and your openness. It was</p> <p>19 great to learn that we have a native of Fort Myers</p> <p>20 representing Sarasota and a Senator from the east coast</p> <p>21 that visits our coastal community here on a regular basis.</p> <p>22 It's nice to see that we have representation throughout the</p> <p>23 State of Florida.</p> <p>24 The most important thing that I have heard today was</p> <p>25 that you, although you are elected by other parts of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 State of Florida, you represent the State of Florida, you  2 represent myself, you represent the people here. I'm  3 confident that you will make the right decision. And I was  4 excited to see the maps. They say that a picture is worth  5 1,000 words. When you look at this and you see the growth  6 in Southwest Florida you see that we need more  7 representation. And that you, when you choose this, that  8 you will keep Southwest Florida in your hearts and minds,  9 that we will have local representation, people that live  10 here, that fill the needs that we have. And I'm confident  11 you will make the right decision. Thank you for your time.  12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 56.  13 MS. VANBIBBER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,  14 I'm a life-long resident of the State of Florida. I grew  15 up in Lee County -- I mean, in Dade County, excuse me. And  16 moved here in 1973, by choice. With all due respect to my  17 family and friends still living in Dade and Broward  18 counties, and if they ask for a video file of these  19 hearings I think I will be in big trouble, but I don't call  20 them when I have a problem or issue or concern about my  21 life in Lee County because they don't live here.  22 I ask my friends in Leadership Lee County, I ask my  23 fellow Kiwanians and I ask my neighbors because they live  24 here and they have a vested interest in my community.  25 East/west redistricting defies logic. The only equitable  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 incumbencies at the expense of representations. This area  2 needs -- I know you are going to have to carve up Lee and  3 Collier to some extent because there are more people than  4 are allowed in those districts, but we need and should have  5 representation for this area. Thank you.  6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 58.  7 MR. DESALVO: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, committee  8 members, my name is Andrew DeSalvo, I'm the chairman-elect  9 for the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. Our  10 chamber represents more than 1,050 members in Southwest  11 Florida and I'm here today to state our position on  12 redistricting on their behalf. We strongly recommend that  13 redistricting be kept to local districts rather than  14 state-wide gerrymandered districts. As you know, our area  15 represents one of the most dynamic growth areas in Florida  16 and in the United States.  17 Our business community and citizens share common  18 values and standards on business and residential  19 development, on quality of life and education. We expect  20 that our representatives will understand and closely  21 reflect the concerns and needs of our community. We want  22 our representatives to be local, to drive our roads, to  23 live and work in our community and be readily available so  24 they can fairly represent our interest.  25 We have been well served by representatives since 1982  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 decision involves a pen, a map and a north/south line that  2 leads directly to Tallahassee where I and all Southwest  3 Floridians deserve to be represented by public servants who  4 drive our roads, who have children in our schools, who  5 enjoy our west coast sunsets unblemished by oil rigs, and  6 who have a vested interest in our communities.  7 Thank you. I do know that will you will make the  8 right decision. And I would also like to thank President  9 Merwin for inviting us to be here today.  10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 57.  11 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman and members of the  12 committee, I appreciate your responsibility and your  13 attention to it. My name is Glen Simmons. I'm chair of  14 the Governmental Affairs Committee for Sanibel Captiva  15 Realtors. I was privileged to be a trial judge in Missouri  16 for 20 years and out of that I have great respect for  17 representation, which is the cornerstone of the functioning  18 of our government. I think the happenings of recent weeks,  19 the last two weeks, bring us to a point where our metal is  20 being tested. And I think that people who are members of a  21 redistricting committee always have their metal tested.  22 My point here is, it's been said before, but I'll  23 reiterate it, I encourage you to take the high road and  24 resist the enormous temptations that usually people in your  25 seats feel pressure and temptations to shore up and protect  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 because of their direct knowledge of our commitment --  2 excuse me, of our communities and its interests. As one of  3 the largest business organizations in Southwest Florida we  4 ask that you support redistricting as a local, contiguous  5 district to assure that we will continue to be fairly and  6 properly represented in the future. Thank you.  7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 59.  8 MS. GRADY: Good afternoon Chairman and members of the  9 committee. My name is Beverly Grady, I'm an attorney with  10 Roetzel &amp; Andress, but today I'm here as the chairman of  11 the Chamber of Southwest Florida which it is a privilege to  12 represent. We welcome you to Southwest Florida and thank  13 you for holding three public hearings in Southwest Florida.  14 And I want to assure you that our Leadership Lee class has  15 been watching you from the classrooms by remote T.V. as the  16 room was so filled.  17 The Chamber of Southwest Florida represents regional  18 employers in Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, and Collier  19 counties, our interest is to see representation for  20 Southwest Florida from Southwest Florida. Our board  21 adopted a policy statement that new Congressional and  22 Legislative Districts for Southwest Florida must be  23 geographically cohesive and not attached to east coast  24 districts. The Chamber of Southwest Florida board of  25 directors officially supports redistricting plans that  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 assure its representatives in the Florida Legislature and  2 U.S. Congress reside in Southwest Florida.  3 Further, the SFWF supports cohesive districts whose  4 geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest  5 Florida. The Chamber specifically rejects redistricting  6 plans that may link Southwest Florida with any political  7 district on the east coast. As you know, our 14th  8 Congressional District, consisting of Lee, Charlotte and  9 Collier counties, with its tremendous growth of over  10 65 percent in Collier, over 31 and a half in Lee, and  11 Charlotte exceeding the state average of 23 percent, makes  12 our congressional District the second fastest growing in  13 the state.  14 Southwest Florida deserves to have its representation  15 preserved, and not only that, but enhanced. And our  16 chamber opposes any attempt to create split or bi-coastal  17 districts because that would dilute and result in less  18 representation for the citizens of Southwest Florida.  19 Our west coast counties share issues and we are an  20 infrastructure, from our transportation system of roads and  21 an international airport to our regional educational  22 network reflected by the Alliance of Educators and our  23 university, regional agencies such as the Southwest Florida  24 Regional Planning Council, our Work Force Development  25 Council, we share water resource issues, and we share in  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 our unique economic, environmental and social concerns and  2 are prepared to protect those as their primary concerns  3 rather than as after thoughts. We deserve representatives  4 who have been fishing on the Caloosahatchee River, on  5 Charlotte Harbor or on the Naples Back Bay. We deserve  6 representatives who have tried to build a building or make  7 a sale or please a client in Southwest Florida. We deserve  8 a representative who has placed a chair on the sidewalks of  9 Fort Myers before the Edison Parade, secure in the  10 knowledge that two months later when they go back those  11 chairs will still be there. We need that and I ask you to  12 give that to us. Thank you.  13 (Applause.)  14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. At this time we are  15 going to -- I'm told this is the time for a break, our  16 court reporter needs five minutes. So in five minutes we  17 will resume the hearing. Thank you.  18 (Brief recess.)  19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Our next presenter is Number 61.  20 If everyone will be quiet, we can start with the hearing  21 again. Number 61, you are recognized.  22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Senator. Senator, members of  23 the committee, welcome to Southwest Florida. We are glad  24 you are here. My name is Steve Scott, I am a resident of  25 Lee County, I'm the program director for Leadership Lee  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 Southwest Florida the same regional economy.  2 Southwest Florida is separated from the east coast  3 physically by the Everglades, by infrastructure, issues,  4 and economic issues. You have a map and may have other  5 maps submitted. You are hearing from individuals in the  6 communities in our area, but there's one unified,  7 bipartisan voice that you have heard; we in Southwest  8 Florida support and deserve representatives from Southwest  9 Florida in our local Legislature and Congress who live  10 here, travel our roads, and recognize our common economic  11 interests. This is an issue where all southwest Floridians  12 stand together. Thank you very much.  13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 60.  14 MR. SHEARMAN: Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members  15 of the committee. My name is Bob Shearman. I am an  16 attorney with Henderson, Franklin, Starns &amp; Holt, the  17 largest law firm in Southwest Florida, we have been here  18 since 1924. I'm the president of the McGregor Isles  19 Homeowners Association, which is a group of 153 homes in  20 South Fort Myers, and I am a member of the Leadership Lee  21 County class that's here today as well. I want to join  22 with the other speakers who have unanimously voiced their  23 concerns and their hopes for a redistricting plan which  24 keeps intact the interests of Southwest Florida.  25 We have observed representatives who are familiar with  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 County and those 51 individuals that some of you shared  2 lunch with today. We are glad that you are here, it was a  3 great addition to our day to have you present and take time  4 out of your schedule to share your insights and visit with  5 community leaders.  6 Many of you started your road, if you call this  7 success I guess, your road to success in community  8 leadership programs similar to Leadership Lee County in  9 your own communities in leadership Florida. And we are  10 very appreciative that you have chosen to be servant  11 leaders representing us in Tallahassee, and those tenets  12 are the foundation and core beliefs of community  13 leaderships across the country and certainly here in  14 Southwest Florida.  15 We believe in servant leadership and in the concepts  16 of holding a community in trust, and we believe that that's  17 what you will do as a result of this hearing. And the  18 folks that have spoken before me and after me are all here  19 for that. But being a program director and someone  20 involved in leadership, I would have to say, Gee, maybe we  21 need to think outside of the box for a little bit, you  22 know, maybe we -- do we really need to have them drawn  23 north and south or east and west. But many people have  24 spoke, and I think the word is very clear that you have  25 heard here today.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 So, as you ponder this situation we trust and hope  2 that you will do the right things for the citizens of  3 Southwest Florida, for the state of Florida. Coming out of  4 our leadership group in 1986, our first class, a member of  5 that class was Porter Goss. And I would like to recognize  6 and thank Porter. I know he's not here, but I hope he  7 hears this tape, and we in the community, Porter, are very  8 appreciative of your 14 years of service to us. And his  9 great leadership has been a benefit and a blessing to us in  10 the region.</p> <p>11 And we encourage you to continue to do what you are  12 doing here, we thank you for your time and we thank the  13 university for hosting this, for getting us out over the  14 airways. We know why you chose this location. We are only  15 one of, I believe, three hearings that are going to be  16 broadcast across the state and we are pleased that one of  17 them are occurring here in Southwest Florida. For those of  18 you watching, if you would like more information or would  19 like to write this esteemed group we encourage you to do  20 that by going to <a href="http://www.chamber-swflorida.com">www.chamber-swflorida.com</a>, there is a  21 redistricting web site there and a link also to the  22 official web site for the Legislature. But there is a  23 letter-writing kit in there that would invite folks who  24 could not be here today to express their opinion to you.  25 We know that will you will take that to heart and we thank  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 of Florida, and that by combining east and west coast  2 districts, those districts would not be well served.</p> <p>3 For this reason the City of Cape Coral, Florida  4 opposes any redistricting plan that may link Southwest  5 Florida with any political district from the east coast of  6 Florida."</p> <p>7 Basically, I guess what I'm here to tell you today is  8 also, I used to live on the east coast and I don't have  9 anything against the east coast of our state, it is our  10 state and I enjoyed my time living there but it is  11 comparing apples and oranges. The social climate is  12 different, economic climate is different, and the  13 transportation situations that we face are different.</p> <p>14 The City of Cape Coral is a proactive form of  15 government, extremely proactive and not reactive. And we  16 would just truly appreciate your help in this matter.  17 Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 63.</p> <p>19 MR. POINTER: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,  20 my name is Jack Pointer, I live in Southwest Florida. The  21 boundary between Southwest Florida and east coast Florida  22 is encompassed by the Everglades and a whole swarm of  23 gators. Please let the elected political officials from  24 Southwest Florida work and live in Southwest Florida.  25 Please let the political boundaries between Southwest  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 you in advance for your consideration and have a great day.  2 Thank you. Number 62.</p> <p>3 MR. DAY: When I heard the number 62 I felt like  4 saying I win because I've been sitting here so long, but I  5 appreciate both the House and Senate being here today with  6 us. I come bearing a -- well, a few different ideas first  7 of all that I would like to keep in mind. The demographics  8 of the City of Cape Coral are over 110,000 people. The  9 city is 114 square miles. Our buildout is approximately  10 35 percent currently, so we have a long way to go. That's  11 why this is very important to us.</p> <p>12 Excuse me. I'm used to be on the other side, not on  13 this side. I have a resolution that I would like to read  14 from the City of Cape Coral. Again, my name is Timothy  15 Day, I don't think I told you that, District 6, City  16 Council.</p> <p>17 "Resolution supporting a cohesive Southwest Florida  18 Congressional District and opposing any redistricting that  19 would include Lee and Collier counties in any Congressional  20 Districts with Broward, Miami-Dade or Monroe counties. The  21 city council of the City of Cape Coral, Florida, supports a  22 cohesive Congressional District where geographical  23 boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest Florida.  24 The council firmly believes that there are many issues that  25 are geographically distinct between the east and west coast  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 Florida and east coast Florida remain in the Everglade  2 area. And please let the swarm of gators play football.  3 (Applause.)</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 64.</p> <p>5 MR. FLEMING: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,  6 distinguished members of this committee, for the record, my  7 name is Jim Fleming, I am from the beautiful community of  8 Lehigh Acres. I also serve as the elected vice-chairman of  9 the East County Water Control District in Lehigh Acres. I  10 want to read something, this is a headline in the Naples  11 Daily News, and it quotes Chairman Carr of the Republican  12 Executive Committee as saying, This is as close to perfect  13 as you can get outside of having -- of course he was  14 talking to the new district that was proposed by his group  15 that excludes my community of Lehigh Acres.</p> <p>16 Well, as a Catholic kid, let me give you a view of  17 purgatory, and that's us. And the devil is into details,  18 isn't that right, Senator Webster? But let me tell you  19 about my community. You have heard tonight about how fast  20 we are growing, about how big we are, how influential we  21 have gotten in a short period of time. I am going to tell  22 you about our people.</p> <p>23 Lehigh Acres is an ethnically mixed, racially balanced,  24 culturally diverse community in every sense of the word.  25 In a very real sense it is a microcosm of the State of  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 Florida with one important distinction, we don't have any  2 yellow neighborhoods or blue neighborhoods or pink  3 neighbors, we have an open community. It is a cultural and  4 social experiment that works.  5 Think what would happen to Lee County if you cut this  6 important community out of our daily political lives. If  7 you did that we would lose some of our color.  8 Eleven percent of the population of Lehigh Acres is  9 African-American. We would lose some of our salsa, because  10 13 percent of our community is of Hispanic background and  11 descent. That's over 25 percent when you add the other  12 minorities that are minority and classified so.  13 You take that out of Lee County and all of a sudden  14 Lee County looks awfully, awfully pale. Because if you are  15 not aware of this, Lee County is one of the least  16 culturally diverse and ethnically balanced and racially  17 balanced communities in the United States. So if you take  18 that away from Lee County you will be taking some of its  19 heart and soul.  20 I see some of my friends, some of my really good  21 friends here today, Bruce Kyle and Carole Greene, Jeff  22 Kottkamp, Lindsey Harrington, these people serve as part of  23 the best delegation that Southwest Florida has ever had in  24 Tallahassee and I'm proud of them and I'm proud that you  25 are here representing us and I know that you will do the  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 and work in Hendry County, actually work in Clewiston, that  2 is right on the border of Palm Beach County, I think. I  3 make orange juice, I am in agriculture. My son also goes  4 to school in Lee County.  5 I have lived in Florida for 20 years, 11 years in  6 Tampa, one year in Jacksonville, and there is a difference  7 in the issues between each area of the state. I have two  8 things that I would like to say. One is issues of  9 Southwest Florida are a lot different than the east coast.  10 And the second thing is, Lehigh Acres should not be  11 separated from Lee County. Our issues are aligned with Lee  12 County. Please make decisions based on what makes good  13 political sense, and what makes good political sense is  14 keeping Lee County together and keeping Southwest Florida  15 together. Thank you.  16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 66.  17 MR. ALBION: Wow, someone needs to turn down the  18 lights. So, Mr. Chairman, and to the committee, thank you  19 very much for having this second, or actually third meeting  20 in Southwest Florida. I had the opportunity to address you  21 last night in Naples. Most of you, I believe, were there.  22 And I also want to thank you for spending the time again  23 today. I know it is a long process, but one of the reasons  24 that it is a long process is because I think Lee County  25 citizens and even Charlotte as well as Collier County  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 right thing when it comes to the community of Lehigh Acres.  2 Don't cut us apart in that Congressional District from  3 the rest of Lee County. Please, for once, let us be whole.  4 We have three state representatives representing my  5 community. Fortunately I love all three of them, but the  6 bad news is that we have three and all of Charlotte County  7 only has two. Make us whole there. And for God sakes,  8 please don't gerrymander us again to the east coast of  9 Florida. I am a poster boy for that, I know what it is all  10 about, I live in a community that has as its State Senator  11 Senator Rossin who lives in West Palm Beach, the community  12 that put the "duh" in Florida. We have nothing in common  13 with those people. When I go over there it's not like I am  14 in a different part of the state, it's like I'm on another  15 planet.  16 So, please do not divide the state on north and south,  17 please -- on east/west, north/south is the only way to go.  18 Leave us where we are. Thank you. I don't know how you do  19 it, but thank you from the bottom of my heart.  20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 65.  21 MR. SULLIVAN: Chairman, committee members, thank you  22 for your time. My name is Jim Sullivan and this is my  23 first political speech. I'm here as a potential disjointed  24 citizen. I'm also a member of the Leadership Lee County.  25 Presently I live in Lehigh Acres, which is in Lee County  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 citizens I hope have really shown you, we really care about  2 this process, so much so that you are seeing the turnout  3 which is taking all of this wonderful time because it's  4 this important to our area.  5 But I do have a document that I will be submitting  6 into your record that I think is very important and it  7 comes from our board of county commissioners, it was sent  8 to the Governor of Florida, it's dated September 10th and  9 it's signed by our chairman, Doug Searns (phonetic).  10 I won't read the whole letter because a couple of  11 paragraphs are more general, but really the body of the  12 letter that I believe would concern you the most I will  13 speak out right now. It states that the Lee County Board  14 of County Commissioners voted unanimously on September 7th,  15 2001 to send to you, which is the Governor and the members  16 of the Florida Legislature a strong message, keep Lee  17 County intact. When establishing new legislative and  18 Congressional District boundaries, Lee County has a  19 population of 440,888 citizens. Congressional guidelines  20 call for districts to have 630,000 to 650,000 inhabitants.  21 We strongly oppose Lee County being divided. It is  22 essential to the future success of our community that we  23 have local representation in Tallahassee and Washington,  24 D.C. It is the expressed desire of the members of the Lee  25 County Board of County Commissioners that you support our  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 efforts and keep Lee County intact.</p> <p>2 It is important to our citizens and our community that</p> <p>3 we remain as one to ensure that we have a voice in Congress</p> <p>4 and Tallahassee for the next decade and beyond.</p> <p>5 And, again, that was unanimously approved by our board</p> <p>6 of county commissioners on September 7th and we will put</p> <p>7 that into the record and if anyone would like to get a copy</p> <p>8 we will be happy to provide it.</p> <p>9 I also want to make this board aware, in terms of the</p> <p>10 Lehigh Acres situation, we built in the east-west corridor</p> <p>11 a bridge, which is called the Midpoint Memorial Bridge and</p> <p>12 spent \$175 million doing it, and one reason was because it</p> <p>13 is a connection between Lehigh Acres and Cape Coral, which</p> <p>14 is the eastern and western portions of our county.</p> <p>15 We then moved up the road widening into Lehigh Acres</p> <p>16 called Lee Boulevard from 2010 to 1996 and spent</p> <p>17 \$11.3 million doing it. The reason that we did it was</p> <p>18 because of the important role that Lehigh Acres does and</p> <p>19 will continue to play in a bigger way for all of Lee County</p> <p>20 for growth management.</p> <p>21 The State chose the university site and it created a</p> <p>22 lot of growth in south Lee County, as anticipated. Lehigh</p> <p>23 Acres and Cape Coral, however, through good growth</p> <p>24 management and spending of infrastructure dollars to</p> <p>25 influence growth is what's saving the south. And the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 But thank you all. Btu Chairman and Senator Webster, thank</p> <p>2 you for your efforts, you have done a great job with the</p> <p>3 meeting last night and today that I have witnessed. Thank</p> <p>4 you.</p> <p>5 (Applause.)</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 67. Number 68. Number 69.</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon, Senator Webster, as a</p> <p>8 native New Yorker who decompressed in Tampa, Florida 17</p> <p>9 years ago to get ready for the community of Immokalee, a</p> <p>10 small agricultural community about 25 miles due east of</p> <p>11 here, I am here to share some things with you. But I want</p> <p>12 to first recognize, Dudley, Burt and Carl, who have done an</p> <p>13 outstanding job of representing us, and I am going to refer</p> <p>14 to Burt a little bit later.</p> <p>15 While in Leadership Collier's -- Leadership Florida's</p> <p>16 Class 17, I learned that there are in fact three Floridas.</p> <p>17 You have to accept that there are in fact three Floridas.</p> <p>18 Roughly Fort Pierce and Miami 20 miles from the coast is</p> <p>19 south New York. Just below Tampa to Marco within 25 miles</p> <p>20 of the coast is south Demoines, Gross Point, Orasing</p> <p>21 (phonetic). Everglades City, Imokalee up through Hendry</p> <p>22 County is south Georgia. Three different parts of the</p> <p>23 states that have we have conflicted right down here close</p> <p>24 by. We don't have mountains, but we do have a swamp. And</p> <p>25 as somebody mentioned earlier we need to use the swamp as a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 reason why is because it is influencing folks to move east</p> <p>2 and west and not everyone move south.</p> <p>3 But the problem we have, as I mentioned last night, is</p> <p>4 permitting at the state and federal level, and it's been a</p> <p>5 big issue about environmental streamlining. This community</p> <p>6 Lehigh Acres has been the key beneficiary of the Daniel</p> <p>7 Roads extension which connects all the way to Daniels Road</p> <p>8 which goes to our international airport and has saved other</p> <p>9 communities, including an elementary school that is on the</p> <p>10 alternative roadway before Daniels extension was built from</p> <p>11 having many people from our east passing by it and</p> <p>12 endangering those children.</p> <p>13 That's what we had to fight with Congressional and</p> <p>14 Senate staff in Washington to try to get the permits to do.</p> <p>15 We would not have had --</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty second.</p> <p>17 MR. ALBION: Thank you. We would not have had that</p> <p>18 situation to have the benefit of Porter Goss' office which</p> <p>19 has been a great benefit to us if Lehigh Acres were part of</p> <p>20 another district. Between the airport, Daniels Road and</p> <p>21 north/south connections of our roadways, environment, as</p> <p>22 well as good growth management, we have to keep Southwest</p> <p>23 Florida intact, especially Lehigh Acres, to our community.</p> <p>24 Thank you all. And especially to our state delegation from</p> <p>25 Southwest Florida, you have done a fantastic job for us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 boundary, because when it comes to national issues, our</p> <p>2 national delegation, the south always rates better to the</p> <p>3 midwest, but we need to be to the southwest.</p> <p>4 When it relates to the state, you can correct the</p> <p>5 problem that we have right now, because we don't have to be</p> <p>6 New York, we don't have to be the Midwest, we can be south,</p> <p>7 South Georgia. And right now we are disenfranchised in the</p> <p>8 State Senate level. If it wasn't for Burt Saunders</p> <p>9 carrying on the way he has to protect the community of</p> <p>10 Immokalee we would be in bad shape. You can correct that</p> <p>11 problem by creating another Senate district right down</p> <p>12 through the heart of the state and separate New York from</p> <p>13 the Midwest like it is supposed to be. Thank you very much</p> <p>14 for anything that you can do along those lines.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. This concludes the live</p> <p>16 telecast but we are grateful for those that have been</p> <p>17 watching and we are also grateful for WTCU-TV who have been</p> <p>18 broadcasting these proceedings. And it doesn't mean that</p> <p>19 we are going to quit, we are going to stay right here and</p> <p>20 finish the testimony. So, No. 70.</p> <p>21 MR. GRANTT: Good afternoon, I'm Alexander P. Grantt,</p> <p>22 I am a resident of Bonita Springs, Florida, I'm a member of</p> <p>23 the local planning agency of the City of Bonita Springs,</p> <p>24 population 33,000, according to the 2000 U.S. Census and</p> <p>25 according to the University of Florida, April 2000, one</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 estimate, we have grown to 38,000 people. I'm also a  2 member of the National Passenger Railway Association as  3 well as the Southwest Florida Chapter of the National  4 Railway Historical Society. Currently in the Sarasota to  5 Collier County area we have 1,300,000 people without  6 passenger rail service. We will need to obtain a lot of  7 Federal funding in order to improve the current railroad  8 infrastructure to meet Amtrak standards so that we can  9 bring AmTrack passenger train service to Southwest Florida.</p> <p>10 The end terminus of the current railroad track is just  11 south of the city limits of Bonita Springs. According to  12 the National Passenger Railway Association, the cost of  13 rehabilitating the present railroad track to Amtrak  14 standards will cost at least a half of a million dollars  15 per mile, for a total of not less than \$35 million from the  16 present CSX Seminole/Gulf Railway interchange in Arcadia to  17 the downtown city area of Bonita Springs, a distance of  18 some 73 miles.</p> <p>19 In order to obtain Federal funding for such an  20 undertaking we must have the support of our U.S.  21 Congressman serving Southwest Florida to obtain this  22 Federal funding for such an important infrastructure  23 project. We need Southwest Florida Congressmen to push the  24 appropriate buttons in Washington to get Amtrak passenger  25 rail service to Southwest Florida.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 Most of these folks are low income earners and almost  2 all are members of a minority; therefore, they are probably  3 covered by the voting rights provisions of the law and  4 they, therefore, will have to be considered in the  5 redistricting process too. I have also helped to build  6 Habitat houses and been a support person for a few Habitat  7 families. I have also been a literacy teacher to landscape  8 and golf course maintenance workers, so I have some  9 acquaintance with the working core and some of their living  10 conditions.</p> <p>11 In the case of Habitat families, of course, this is  12 before they were able to move into their homes. Crowded  13 housing, lack of transportation, lack of medical insurance,  14 inability to deal with authority, lack of educational  15 backgrounds are many of the things that have plagued these  16 folks. Some of these needs have been met so far. For  17 example, the farm worker housing in Immokalee, and then  18 there's some -- there is a health center there too that  19 have been constructed.</p> <p>20 The problem still exists to a large extent. What's  21 made a difference, though, and will continue to make a  22 difference is the strong leadership that's been given to  23 these matters here in Lee and Collier counties. The  24 leadership has come from the Federal level, from the State,  25 and from our local government and public and private</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 If we have congressmen from the east coast of Florida  2 representing us, our chances of getting passenger train  3 service here will likely be nil. Our only chances to bring  4 daily passenger train service to this area is having our  5 congressmen being residents of Southwest Florida. I  6 support Plan C which will give Southwest Florida two U.S.  7 Congressmen representing Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, DeSoto,  8 Glades, Hendry, Collier, and West Monroe counties. Thank  9 you.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 71.</p> <p>11 MS. PASTER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members  12 of the redistricting committees. My name is Laurel Paster,  13 I live in Bonita Shores at the northwestern end of Collier  14 County and I am a member of the Collier County Democratic  15 Executive Committee. I certainly want to thank you for  16 coming to Southwest Florida. As a strong proponent of  17 participatory democracy, I am delighted to be afforded this  18 opportunity to put my two cents into the redistricting  19 process. You have heard that Collier County is second only  20 to Palm Beach County in wealth, and that's true, there are  21 loads and loads of money there. But there is another side  22 of Collier County, the one that works the fields, maintains  23 the condos, takes care of the golf courses, services the  24 hotels, washes the dishes in the restaurants, clerks in the  25 supermarkets, et cetera.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 organizations. What has been significant as far as the  2 redistricting process is concerned is that these leaders  3 are all from Southwest Florida. We certainly could not  4 expect anybody from the east coast to know enough about  5 these problems or to take them to heart or maybe even to  6 have their priorities set right for us. Therefore, we  7 definitely have to have local leadership on these issues.</p> <p>8 Furthermore, there are issues before Congress  9 currently regarding the residency of legal and illegal  10 immigrants that will have great impact on our counties. We  11 have many people of Hispanic, Haitian, and other foreign  12 origins who will or will not be on their way to  13 citizenship. All of this legislation in the future is  14 going to affect us, so we really need to have people in  15 Congress who know this area, who know these folks, who know  16 what the problems are. And they need to have offices that  17 are local so that folks on any side of this issue can go to  18 them and get the information or get the kinds of forms they  19 need.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>21 MS. PASTER: For these reasons and for the other --  22 the reasons that everybody else has brought forth, we  23 certainly want to keep Collier County intact. Finally, I  24 know this is not going to be easy, drawing these lines and  25 I hope you will use your best thinking and your best</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 integrity when you are doing this job. And bless you.  2 Thank you.  3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 72.  4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 72. Number 73. Number 74.  5 Number 75. Number 76.  6 MR. ROTH: I knew ahead of time that I was probably  7 the last one because I was an hour late and I didn't hear  8 the whole first hour; however, I'm fairly certain that I've  9 heard in the last hour enough that you have been ultimately  10 pleased, possibly bored, but nevertheless, you have learned  11 what the majority of people wanted to tell you when they  12 came here.  13 I don't represent anybody but myself. I do have a  14 form of articulate speaking, I carry no notes, I have  15 opinions as everybody else does. And I learned most of the  16 information on this subject that you are so kind and so  17 generous in establishing here, and staying so long, huh,  18 there's hardly anybody here left, but I'm allowing myself  19 to say that I'm pleased to know that you have given  20 consideration to this.  21 And one of the things that -- I'm not commenting one  22 way or another on why this is happening. But I am saying  23 to you that this kind of an ordinance, this kind of a  24 direction, this kind of a group is highly unique because it  25 represents people who should be represented in our society  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 maybe not the best time, but nevertheless, you have been  2 kind and generous in letting us know, those of us who knew  3 about this, to come out and have our words and have our  4 speaking. And even the ones who can't speak well still  5 have the right to come up here and say anything that they  6 want to have that is on their minds and you have been very  7 kind to allow them to do that. And I thank you for that  8 and I hope that you will continue to promote these kind of  9 political discussions, especially through your daily  10 newspaper. Thank you.  11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. That concludes the  12 public testimony. And we have usually allowed the members  13 of the delegation and then any member of the panel to  14 speak, if they would like. So, if there is a member of the  15 local delegation that would like to say something I would  16 be glad to recognize you. Representative Harrington, you  17 are recognized.  18 REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON: For the record, I just  19 would like to make a note that I think our entire Lee  20 County delegation really truly does believe that the  21 descriptions that you heard today, the heartfelt pleas that  22 you heard today, are totally really reflective both of the  23 true feelings of most all of the people in Lee County,  24 Collier County, Charlotte County and we just ask that this  25 be taken to heart. This is what our people really need in  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 and we are moving more toward that all of the time as each  2 and everyone of you know in a political sense.  3 I find my information almost entirely from the Fort  4 Myers News Press and the Naples Daily News. I am not a  5 television watcher and I'm thinking seriously that there's  6 an awful lot of wasted effort that goes into television,  7 and that I think that you have expressed by opening this  8 conference, so to speak, to all of the people who found out  9 about it, and some of them of course have a bias one way or  10 another, but what I'm trying to say to you is that the use  11 of the newspapers, and especially the editorial segment,  12 letters to the editor, editorials on the newspaper are a  13 very, very significant way of letting people know, people  14 like me, who have not necessarily a critical or noncritical  15 opinion, but an opinion that is respectful of the kind of  16 thing that you are doing for them as a politician or a  17 political committee.  18 I'm very respectful of that and I'm hoping that  19 whenever you have these kinds of hearings that you will  20 continue to offer a lot of information through your  21 newspaper because that is a far better means of  22 establishing people who can come out at 1:00 in the  23 afternoon or something like that instead of 6 or 7 at  24 night.  25 You have already been told many times that this is  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 Southwest Florida.  2 Secondly, the most important thing is that, yes, the  3 timings of some of these events have not been perfect, they  4 have been really tough for some folks who wish to  5 participate, but that was, I would assume, taken into  6 consideration, because you offer up web sites and  7 opportunities for people to participate from their homes,  8 from their neighbor's home if they don't have a computer,  9 and/or from the library in the community. So there still  10 is an opportunity for those who cannot make it to these  11 formal sessions, that they can make contact back to the  12 Legislature through the internet. And that I think is an  13 innovation that I certainly applaud you all for taking into  14 consideration. And thank you, Mr. Webster, Senator  15 Webster.  16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Saunders.  17 SENATOR SAUNDERS: Thank you, Senator Webster, just  18 two quick things. First of all, I want to thank the  19 committee for the time and effort that went into this and  20 the staff that's worked hard to make this work the way it  21 has. I also want to thank and congratulate the Lee County  22 and Collier County community for coming together and  23 expressing in a very articulate way and a very professional  24 way and a very courteous way your feelings about how we  25 want this region to be represented especially in the United  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 States Congress by someone who lives in this region. I  2 think everyone in this community should be proud of the  3 presentations that were made. Thank you.  4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Kottkamp you are  5 recognized.  6 REPRESENTATIVE KOTTKAMP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  7 think all of us that served on the local delegation will  8 tell you that it is an honor and a privilege to represent  9 Southwest Florida and you make us all very proud the way  10 you came out today and with a unified voice and fought for  11 what you believe in and I was very very proud for you.  12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Kyle.  13 REPRESENTATIVE KYLE: Is this on? Okay. I just want  14 to thank everybody for such a great turnout for our area.  15 It speaks a lot for our county. And I would like to thank  16 the Chairman, Senator Webster, and Chairman Byrd for having  17 three meetings in our area as well as having it in a T.V.  18 studio so we can reach out to even more people. We haven't  19 always had the luxury of being able to televise all of the  20 meetings and I think it is a great thing.  21 Also if you didn't have a chance, if you have people  22 that you know that didn't have a chance to be here today,  23 if you have neighbors and friends who still want to speak  24 on this issue, it's not too late to submit their opinions  25 in writing to any of the members up here who can turn it in  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE: Thank you. First I would like  2 to thank you all for being here, and particularly two  3 special people, are my parents who are in the audience. I  4 was born in Fort Myers, my mother was born and raised in  5 Fort Myers, Art and Dot Smith, just wave at us.  6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Anyone else?  7 (No audible response.)  8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you all for coming. The  9 meeting is adjourned.  10 (Meeting concluded.)  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 and it will become part of the permanent record. So, it is  2 an ongoing process and there is still an opportunity to  3 still be heard and to still speak.  4 And once again, I would like to thank everybody for  5 showing up, and especially those who have stayed to the  6 bitter end. Thank you.  7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Greene.  8 REPRESENTATIVE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  9 thank you, each and every one, for being here. It has been  10 a long day and you have stuck with us and I do appreciate  11 that too. I'm very honored to serve Southwest Florida and  12 enjoy the opportunity to get to know so many of you as my  13 constituents and folks that I work with on a regular basis,  14 and like my colleagues have said, I'm proud of you, I am so  15 proud of that fact that you had thoughtful presentations  16 today, that you stood up and said what you needed to say  17 but still kept the decorum to make it thoughtful and yet  18 passionate in what you believe this issue to be. So,  19 thanks for being here, and also we must thank the folks, my  20 colleagues seated here who have made such an effort to be  21 with us and spend so much time here away from their  22 families and the things that they should probably be doing  23 elsewhere. But thank you so much, all of you, for staying  24 here with us today.  25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Others? Representative Clarke.  DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 CERTIFICATE  2  3 STATE OF FLORIDA:  4  5 COUNTY OF LEON:  6  7 I, MONA L. WHIDDON, Court Reporter, certify that I  8 was authorized to and did stenographically report the  9 foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and  10 complete record of my stenographic notes.  11 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  MONA L. WHIDDON  Court Reporter  Division of Administrative Hearings  1230 Apalachee Parkway  Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060  (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675  Fax Filing (850) 921-8453  www.doah.state.fl.us    DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>